



BEIJING TODAY

FRIDAY OCTOBER 14 2005

NO. 228

CN11-0120

HTTP://BJTODAY.YNET.COM



Astronauts complete first experiment in space

By Qiu Jiaoning

The two Shenzhou VI astronauts, Fei Junlong and Nie Haisheng, mainly conducted an anti-disturbance experiment yesterday after a satisfying first day in orbit. Shenzhou VI, China's second manned spacecraft, was launched on Wednesday.

They successfully completed the experiment. They purposely used more strength to move, to test the disturbance that their movement had on the spacecraft. They moved between the orbital and re-entry capsules three times during their 20th orbit around the Earth, which was part of the planned anti-disturbance experiment.

Their movements caused little disturbance to the spacecraft's stabilities and functions and there was no need to make any adjustment to the flight as the spacecraft orbited normally.

During the first day in space, Shenzhou VI orbited the Earth 16 times, covering 680,000 kilometers in space. The astronauts smoothly completed their actions as planned, taking off their space suits, opening the capsule doors, eating, drinking, and sleeping.

The experiments in space also included life and physical exercises in weightless conditions and biological cell tests.

Wang Yongzhi, chief designer of China's Manned Space Program, said that the two astronauts will bring back the data on the tests, which is a must for China to build a permanent space laboratory, the ultimate goal



Astronauts Fei Junlong (left) Nie Haisheng read the pilot bulletin in the capsule yesterday.

Xinhua Photo

of the space program.

China's first manned mission Shenzhou V was launched in 2003 with a single astronaut, and lasted for one day.

With a lot of modifications and improvements in the series of Shenzhou spacecraft capsules, Shenzhou VIII is expected to become a relatively fixed version of China-made space vessels, said Zhang Bainan, chief designer

of China's spacecraft system.

According to Zhang, China has been making improvements on the Shenzhou spaceships. Every capsule has new technological features, to make the spacecraft perfect.

The design of the Shenzhou series has avoided the defects of Russia's Soyuz vessel from the beginning and adopted more advanced tech-

nology. In addition, a number of ground experiments have been conducted from Shenzhou I to Shenzhou VI to test every detail of the capsules.

As long as a final design is worked out, basic craft elements such as the shape, internal structure, control service system and data transmission will be fixed, but minor modifications may be necessary for different mis-

sions, the designer said.

The spacecraft is scheduled to have its first orbit maintenance operation in the early hours of today to restore the vessel to its original trajectory, and it will return on Sunday.

Experts said the maintenance will be a normal technical operation and similar tasks are possible in the future according to the spacecraft's orbiting situations.

New pterosaur fossils discovered in China

By Jackie Zhang

After three years of research, discussion, and fossil renovation, a thesis co-written by two Chinese researchers and two Brazilian researchers on the two newly discovered pterosaurs was finally published in the famous British magazine *Nature*, last Thursday.

Wang Xiaolin and Zhou Zhonghe, researchers from the Chinese Academy of Sciences' Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology, together with the two Brazilian researchers got the new pterosaur specimens three years ago at the Liaoxi area in the northeast part of China.

Johol Biota in the Liaoxi area is very famous in the archaeological field and is reputed as a fossil treasury, alongside the Solnhofen limestone in Germany and the Santana Formation in Brazil. Since the 1990s, a myriad of well-preserved fossils, especially those of pterosaurs, have been discovered there.

"Every year, we go to the Liaoxi area for a period of time for excavation or investigation," said Zhou Zhonghe.

"Each time, we usually unearth many fossils there. Since all fossils are discovered under the earth, only after primary cleaning and dressing, can we be sure what kinds of fossils we have discovered."



The fossil of Nurhachius ignaciobrito, one of the specimens.

Photos by Wang Xiaolin

Three years ago, during the cooperated excavation with two Brazilian researchers, Alexander W. A. Kellner and Diogenes de Almeida Campos, the fossils of the two new kinds of pterosaurs were discovered.

A local seller showed them the fossils. "Since they unearthed the fossils without professional technology, the fossils was splitted into two parts," said Wang Xiaolin, quoted by the *Beijing News*.

"Over the past three years after the discovery, we've done a lot of research and dressing work on the two specimens.

We also held many discussions while writing the thesis with our two Brazilian colleagues," said Wang Xiaolin.

After the three years of efforts, they completed the thesis early this year and sent it to *Nature*.

The four researchers also made restored pictures of the two kinds of pterosaurs according to their research. Along with the thesis, they sent a self-designed cover with the pterosaurs' restored pictures against the background of the Great Wall to *Nature*. However, the magazine *Nature* did not adopt their design.



The restored picture of Nurhachius ignaciobrito.

"We designed the cover and sent it to *Nature* just as a suggestion," said Zhou Zhonghe, adding, "It didn't matter whether the magazine used it or not."

The two new kinds of pterosaurs were named *Feilongus youngi* and *Nurhachius ignaciobrito*.

"The discovery of the fossils of the pterosaurs is valuable," said Zhou Zhonghe, adding, "Among the great numbers of the creatures living in the ancient times, few of them could be fossilized and later discovered by human beings."

The research on *Feilongus* and *Nurhachius* shows that the two new pterosaurs have their closest relatives in Europe. It is the first time for these kinds of pterosaurs to have been discovered in non-European areas. It also shows that about 120 million years ago in the mid-late part of the Early Cretaceous Period, there were broad faunal exchanges between Europe and eastern Asia.

The discovery of the pterosaur fossils in the Johol Biota has important implications in the research on the evolution of pterosaurs.

Fourth Sino-US textile talks fail

By Hou Mingxin

China and the United States have failed to find a formula to deal with China's booming textile exports, which have inflamed trade tensions between the two countries, the chief US negotiator David Spooner said in a statement yesterday.

"We have not come to an agreement that meets the needs of our domestic manufacturers and retailers," Spooner said.

"Our overall goal, as we've said all along, is to reach a longer-term solution that will permit greater stability in textile and apparel trade. The US has been using its right under China's WTO accession agreement to invoke safeguards in cases of market disruption or the threat of market disruption, and we will continue to do so as appropriate."

It was the fourth such face-to-face meeting since a surge in Chinese exports unleashed by the end of global textile quotas on January 1 spread alarm in the United States.

The two sides are aiming for a deal similar to a pact China and the European Union reached in June, and revised in September, which limits annual growth in 10 categories of Chinese textile exports to the 25-nation EU to between 8 and 12.5 percent a year in the 2005-2007 period.

Harold Pinter wins Nobel Prize

By Dong Nan

British playwright Harold Pinter won the 2005 Nobel Prize for Literature.

Pinter "uncovers the precipice under everyday prattle and forces entry into oppression's closed rooms," said the Swedish Academy's citation for the 10-million-crown prize.

Pinter was born in 1930 in Hackney, a working-class neighborhood in London's East End, the son of a Jewish tailor in the UK. He achieved international success as one of the most complex post-World War II dramatists.

His plays are noted for their use of silence to increase tension, understatement, and cryptic small talk. Equally recognizable are the 'Pinteresque' themes – nameless menace, erotic fantasy, obsession and jealousy, family hatred, and mental disturbance.

Pinter's major plays include *The Room* (1957), *The Birthday Party* (1957), and *The Dumb Waiter* (1960).

Beijing Marathon hits the road on Sunday

By Mingxin/Feng Nianhua

This year's Beijing marathon, which is also the marathon final of the tenth National Games, will hit the road at 8 am this Sunday, starting from the Tian'anmen Square.

A total 20,834 participants, including 5,106 female runners, are expected to take part. So far, the oldest registered runner is 73 years old, while the youngest one, from Germany, is a mere eight.

About 50 top marathon runners from home and abroad, including famous Chinese runners Sun Yingjie, Li Zhuhong and Zhou Chunxiu, will participate. The organizers will release the names of 10 top international marathon runners later today.

During last year's marathon, two amateur runners, a college student and a retiree, collapsed and died. With the tragedies still fresh in their minds, athletics officials are calling for participants to be properly guided and insured this year.

According to the plan, the race will pass by west Chang'an Street, Yuetanbei Street, Fucheng Road, Haidian Road, Beichen Road, and so on, before finishing off at 12:30 pm at the National Olympic Sports Center.

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Birthday boy and comrade now instant celebrities

By Zhou Ying

Nie Haisheng, who celebrated his 41st birthday Wednesday in space, and Fei Junlong became instant celebrities



Nie Haisheng

at home and abroad when they blasted off on Wednesday in Shenzhou VI. However, their names were kept secret until the final hours before lift-off.

40 and 41 respectively, Fei and Nie are from provinces in east-central China and are former pilots in the Chinese Air Force.

Both were part of an original group of fourteen training over the past few years for the Shenzhou program. They have all been members of the astronaut brigade of the People's Liberation Army since 1998, along with Yang Liwei, China's pioneer astronaut.

Nie was a member of the final group from which Yang Liwei was picked to man Shenzhou V in 2003, according to Xinhua News Agency.

Nie Haisheng was born near Zaoyang, Hubei Province. After graduating from high school he became a fighter pilot in the People's Liberation Army Air Force, reaching the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

Shi Tiandong, Nie's classmate in

senior middle school, said Nie is mentally strong and had a great passion for planes. "He told us that his dream was to be a plane designer, to work for an aerospace company," Shi said.

Yang Liwei recalled that Nie impressed him as a persistent and diligent person. "He doesn't talk much. He is a hard-working and cooperative man," he added.

Nie showed that he could keep his cool during an incident in 1989 when his plane lost power while he was flying at 13,000 feet. The plane spun to the ground and the cabin began to heat up. He waited until the plane was 1,300 to 1,700 feet from the ground before ejecting. He was honored with a third-class merit for his handling of the situation.

Fei Junlong was born in Suzhou in Jiangsu Province and joined the People's Liberation Army Air Force in 1982 at the age of 17 and became a fighter pilot.

According to Hu Yinyan, chief trainer in charge of spacecraft operation skills, Fei's outstanding technical standard

astonished the trainers when they prepared for the launch of Shenzhou VI.

"Fei could manage to remember much of the whole guidance book of nearly

400,000 words by heart. He can handle any complicated flying program without checking the book," Hu added.



Nie Haisheng's mother looks at pictures of her son on the front page of a newspaper.

One small step on the way to the moon

By Zhou Ying

China opened a new chapter in its ambitious drive to become a global space power when Shenzhou VI blasted off on Wednesday with two astronauts on board. The country eventually wants to land a man on the moon and set up its own space station.

The space program not only aims for scientific gains but also for kudos at home and abroad.

"Manned space flight is the most complicated and difficult aerospace project. It demonstrates a nation's scientific research and economic strength," Wang Yongzhi, chief designer of China's manned space program, told Xinhua News Agency. "It's a major means to expand human living space and tap and use space resources."

Having two crew members on board is another step forward and an improvement on China's first manned space flight in October 2003, when Yang Liwei spent 21 hours on a solo flight. With that mission China became only the third country after the US and the former Soviet Union to achieve manned space flight.

Shenzhou VI's launch is the first part of the next step in China's methodical space development plan, which will include longer space flights with larger crews.

The program's first space walk will take place when Shenzhou VII is launched next year, Xinhua News Agency reported. Shenzhou VIII's mission in 2008 could include a rendezvous and docking with the orbital module left behind in space by Shenzhou VII.

The country's ultimate goal is a giant leap to the moon. China also plans to set up a permanent space station enabling astronauts and scientists to shuttle between the Earth and the space station to conduct large-scale scientific experiments, according to a statement by the space program office.

The completion of the manned space program will enable Chinese astronauts and scientists to conduct space activities regularly and to lay a solid foundation for China to make peaceful use of space and



Shenzhou VI blasts off on Wednesday morning.



Nie Tianxiang sing "Happy birthday" to her father, Nie Haisheng, on Wednesday evening in Beijing.



Fei Di talks to his father, Fei Junlong, on Wednesday evening.

explore space resources.

China's manned space program has been in development for over a decade, and the first unmanned prototype was deployed in space in 1999. Three more test flights

followed, before the first manned mission was launched in October 2003. In contrast, the former Soviet Union and the United States completed their first space flights over 40 years ago.

Shenzhou VI a big leap forward

By Chu Meng

Shenzhou VI is similar to Shenzhou V launched in 2003 and also consists of three main modules, the booster rockets, the orbital module and the return module. An emergency escape module was also added, Zhang Bonan, chief general designer of China's Manned Spaceflight Program, said.

During the flight the astronauts moved from the return module to the orbital module where they conduct scientific tests. Their living quarters are also in the orbital module. It is well equipped with drinking water and a variety of heated food as well as essential sanitary equipment.

Shenzhou VI is a huge improvement on its predecessor.

Differences between Shenzhou V and Shenzhou VI space flights:

1. Yang Liwei was the only astronaut aboard China's first manned spaceship, Shenzhou V. Shenzhou VI carries two, Fei Junlong and Nie Haisheng.

2. Shenzhou V's flight lasted 21 and a half hours, while Shenzhou VI will stay in space for five days. Many technical improvements were made and more equipment and software were added to Shenzhou VI to accommodate the extra crew member and make the longer flight possible.

3. Shenzhou V's astronaut had to stay in the return module where Shenzhou VI's astronauts are living in the orbital module where they also conduct a series of experiments. The two astronauts entered the orbital module from the return module about nine hours after the blastoff on Wednesday morning, a significant breakthrough for China's space technology. Yang Liwei had to stay in the return module during Shenzhou V's flight. Fei Junlong and Nie Haisheng's move to the orbital module enabled them to take off the heavy space suits to conduct experiments and scientific research in more comfortable clothes.

4. While Yang Liwei only had drinking water and snacks, Fei Junlong and Nie Haisheng are enjoying three hot meals every day. This includes a variety of vegetables, fruits, meat, cream soup, tea and coffee.

5. Shenzhou VI's two astronauts have the comfort of a sleeping bag in the orbital module and take turns to take a nap.



Fei Junlong

6. Shenzhou VI is also the first Chinese space craft equipped with a device for collecting excrement and urine.

7. The space craft's environmental control systems have been improved to provide a comfortable environment for the two astronauts. Advanced ventilation and purifying systems as well as temperature and humidity control systems were installed. The temperature in the cabin is kept between 17 - 25 °C.

8. More safety features have been built into Shenzhou VI. Apart from the emergency escape module, the return module boasts a new buffer structure for the astronauts' chairs to minimize movement of the body during re-entry and landing. Improvements were also made that significantly reduces the risks of fire in the cabin.

9. An emergency landing procedure covering five main aspects were ready for activation after the launch. Procedures were in place for a main and an auxiliary landing area, for an emergency rescue on land, as well as an off-shore rescue, for a communication sub-system and for medical care.

10. The valuable experience gained during Shenzhou V's launch was put to good use during Shenzhou VI's launch.

11. The average age of the team behind Shenzhou VI's launch is 48.7 years, almost 5 years younger than those in charge of Shenzhou V's launch. About 80 percent of China's potential astronauts are pilots younger than 35-years old.

88 and counting ... Long March rockets space program's workhorse



Technicians and engineers install the roll boosters on to the Long March rocket CZ-2F.

By Zhou Ying

Shenzhou VI's launch was the 88th time Long March (Changzheng) rockets were successfully used to carry a vessel into space.

Twelve types of Long March rockets have been used to launch various spacecraft, including the "Dongfanghong", "Haoxing", and "Shenzhou" types.

The Long March rockets have met the requirements for launching spacecraft at lower, middle and higher earth orbits. The Long March 2F, which carried Shenzhou VI into space, is the only one used so far to launch manned spacecraft.

It is a version of the Changzheng 2E - a liquid-propelled rocket derived from Chinese military missiles - that has been upgraded to make it reliable enough for manned flight. Like other launch vehicles in this group that have been designed to carry heavier payloads, its original four-engine core is augmented by four strap-on boosters.

According to Xinhua News Agency, the rocket demanded the most complicated technology and the safest standards.

So far, the Long March 2F had successfully launched four unmanned spacecraft and two manned spacecraft into planned orbits.

From unmanned to manned space flight

By Zhou Ying

Shenzhou I - November 19, 1999 - unmanned test flight

Shenzhou I, launched on November 19, 1999, was the first unmanned launch of Shenzhou spacecraft. The spacecraft used was not equipped with a life support system or emergency escape system. It carried 100 kilograms of seeds into space to investigate the effect of weightlessness.

Shenzhou II - January 9, 2001 - carrying an animal cargo

Shenzhou II, launched on January 9, 2001, was the second unmanned launch of the Shenzhou program. The return module carried a monkey, a dog and a rabbit. They were used to test the spaceship's life support systems. There were also 64 different scientific payloads. These included a microgravity crystallography experiment; animal spe-

cies including six mice, and small aquatic and terrestrial organisms; cosmic ray and particle detectors and gamma ray burst detectors.

Shenzhou III - March 25, 2002 - carrying a test dummy

Shenzhou III, launched on March 25, 2002, was the third unmanned launch. This was the first Shenzhou craft which could actually have carried a human cargo and as such the main objective was to test the systems required to support a human in space. On board it carried dummy simulating human physiological aspects like palpitation, pulse, breathing, eating, metabolism, and excretion.

Shenzhou IV - December 29, 2002 - carrying a test dummy, performing several science experiments

Shenzhou IV launched on

The 16th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) concluded its fifth plenary session on Tuesday, which examined and approved proposals for forming the 11th Five-Year Plan for National Economic and Social Development.

China's Five-Year Plan, the roadmap for the country's development in the coming five years, will bring revolutionary changes, analysts said.

From "Getting Rich First" to "Common Prosperity"

The theory proposed by the late chief architect of China's reforms, Deng Xiaoping, in the 1970s to allow some of the people to get rich first will give way to "common prosperity" in a bid to bridge the growing gap between the rich and the poor, and to avoid social polarization.

That is the first historic adjustment to the pattern of five-year plans since China changed its approach to economic and social development in the 1970s.

"It shows that the CPC will give special attention to the construction of a balanced mechanism under a market economy,"

New 5-Year Plan to see revolutionary changes

said Hu Angang, an expert on macroeconomics at Tsinghua University.

The lowest-income families, comprising the bottom 10 percent of all families, owns less than 2 percent of all the residents' assets in society, while the highest-income families, or the top 10 percent of all families, own over 40 percent of the total assets, government statistics show.

Chinese leaders have warned against extremes of poverty and wealth, increasing unemployment, and intensified social conflict.

From "Growth Rate" to "Sustainable Development"

The recognition that economic growth is not equal to economic development and that growth is not the final goal of

development, will be included in the new plan for the first time, said analysts.

Top leaders have criticized old concepts of economic growth many times, saying that "economic development at the center" does not mean "with speed at the center."

Blind pursuit of economic growth has led to blind investment, damage to the environment, and false statistics. The country's helmsmen are worried that without changing China's concept of growth, the economy might develop an unbalanced structure with a lack of driving power.

In the new plan, the economic growth will be defined as "Serving the people to improve life quality," said analysts.

"A prediction can be made that in the next five years China

will pursue growth in a fair, balanced, and sustainable way," said Tang Min, chief economist with the Asian Development Bank's China office.

China will control the use of foreign investment in the 11th Five-Year Plan period, said experts.

Government statistics show that foreign trade accounts for over 70 percent of China's economy. Frequent trade frictions have caused huge costs to the economy.

China has become a major consumer of energy resources. International energy institutions predict that from 2002 to 2030, around 21 percent of the world's new demand for energy resources will come from China. In 2004, nearly 50 percent of the petroleum used in China was imported.

Favorable to social services

The new five-year plan will bolster social services to deal with the imbalances in economic and social development, said analysts.

China's top leaders stressed that it has become urgent to solve the problem of strong economic growth accompanied by weak social development.

The problem of social security is particularly serious in the countryside, where the medical care system and welfare are extremely weak.

From 1993 to 2003, the number of people with no access to medical insurance in the country increased from 900 million yuan to one billion, with the percentage rising from 67.8 percent to 80.7 percent. The number in urban areas rose from 96.53 million in 1993 to 300 million in 2003.

"In the next five years, China will place more emphasis on science and technology, education, and health care in policy and investment," said Ding Yuanzhu, a researcher from the National Development and Reform Commission.

(Xinhua)

Expats to require professional certificates

By Annie Wei

A new regulation states that people from China's Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Macao should have their professional qualified certificates approved in Beijing for 106 categories of vocations, starting from July 1, 2006.

The regulation adds that any company who wants to hire people from the three areas for any job on the list should submit required documents, as well as the qualified certificate, to the local labor and social security bureau. Any company who has already hired people from these places should help the staff members prepare for the related testing.

Roles, such as those of lathers (who shapes wood and metal using a machine), locksmiths, electricians, and car mechanics, as well as drivers in industrial, energy, and transportation fields, all require professional skills. Positions in the business and tourism industries, like beauty and hair stylists, photographers, and chefs, also require qualified certificates.

In principle, people from foreign countries should follow the same rules. For foreigners who want to get their profession-qualified certificate in China, the Labor and Social Security Bureau only provides testing papers in Chinese. For positions like western-food cooks or bakers, foreigners only need to provide their qualified certificate approved by their home country.

However, people wonder how practical such regulations are, since few expats take jobs as woodworkers, bricklayers, or plumbers in China now. But vocations like photographers and beauty and hair stylists do attract expats.

Steven Lakes, a freelancer photographer from South Asia, did not think he needed a qualified certificate.

"Most foreigners I know here hold student or business visa, which means they are not supposed to work in China. Take myself for example: I am a freelancer photographer with a business visa. Each time I take some photos, I sell them. And I call it "business" instead of "work."

Ms. Hu from the Beijing Labor and Social Security Bureau said that the coming out of the regulation has nothing to do with expatriates' actual employment situation right now.

Kan Ying, also from the bureau, said that according to a regulation issued in 2000, any company who hires expats for the listed jobs would be fined at least 1,000 yuan each time.

However, Kan admits, "In fact, I haven't heard that any company was fined for such a case yet."

Qinghai-Tibet railway nears finish

By Chu Meng

The Qinghai-Tibet Railway Project, reputed to be the world's highest and the longest railway, has begun to pave its last kilometer of rails, and will be ready for testing next Tuesday.

"The whole project is going very well now," said Sun Fuqing, vice-minister of railways.

"The railway is being paved up to Lhasa this week. We're confident that the whole railway will be ready for trials by next July 1. Then it will be ultimately put into use on July 1, 2007," said Sun.

"A long-term trial is essential because of technique obstacles from the frozen earth and the high altitude environment there (in Lhasa)," explained Sun, adding, "It will only take 48 hours to travel from Lhasa to Beijing after construction."

Work on the project began on June 29, 2001. The railroad starts from Golmud in Northwest China's Qinghai Province, and stretches a distance of 1,142 kilometers to Lhasa in the south. About 960 kilometers of the track are over 4,000 meters above sea level, with the highest point hitting 5,072 meters. In addition, 550 kilometers of the line are laid on frozen earth, according to Sun.

In terms of ecological protection, according to a water quality and environment survey by the Qinghai Provincial Environment Monitoring Center, the water quality at the source of the Yangtze, the longest river in China, has remained unchanged.

Foreign banks eye RMB bonds policy

By Zhou Ying

Foreign banks in China began to hunger for a more open policy at a faster pace on the domestic yuan-dominated bonds market ever since two foreign institutions became the first to gain final approval to issue local currency bonds in China on Sunday.

The People's Bank of China released a statement, saying that the International Finance Corp (IFC), an arm of the World Bank that extends financing in the private sector, won the go-ahead to sell 1.13 billion yuan (\$140 million) in 10-year bonds.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB), which works to reduce poverty in the Asia-Pacific region, got the green light to sell one billion yuan of bonds at the same maturity at an annual rate of 3.34 percent.

Foreign banks regarded the policy as an important first step for the innovation of the Chinese financial system.

Zhang Jingzhi, chief representative of Deutsch Bank Nord/LB in Beijing, thinks that the policy can further enhance the development of foreign commercial banks in China.

He added that most of the projects of the first two lucky organizations were assistance-oriented rather than commercial ones. "I believe the reason why the People's Bank of China chose the two organizations was because of their low risk. The government must choose financial organizations with high security," he explained.

The IFC will use the proceeds from the bonds to finance three Chinese companies: 406 million yuan (US\$50 million) to Guangzhou Development Industry Holdings; 65 million yuan (US\$8 million) to Chindex International's United Family Hospitals; and 650 million yuan (US\$80 million) to the Anhui Conch Cement Company.

Zhang Xuechun, senior financial counselor with the Asian Development Bank's PRC Resident Mission, also announced that the bonds targeted Chinese institutional investors and the income will be used in ADB's projects in China, including loans for infrastructural construction, the private and financial sectors, and technological assistance.

"China hopes the introduction of such bonds would help the market to achieve trading volumes needed for a sound yield curve, which lenders could use as a benchmark. That would promote efficient allocation of capital," read the statement.

Cao Honghui, director of the Finance Research Institute of the China Academy of Social Sciences, said that allowing international financial institutions to issue RMB-denominated bonds in China will relieve the deposit pressure on banks and reduce the appeal of revaluing the RMB.



A robot lights the main torch of the 10th National Games in the opening ceremony held at the Olympics Center in Nanjing, Jiangsu Province, Wednesday, October 12, 2005. The 12-day Games, the largest since 1959, will feature 9,985 athletes from 46 delegations competing across 357 events in 32 sports.

Xinhua Photo

SFDA eases on-line drug sales restrictions

By Chu Meng

For the first time, qualified enterprises can open their on-line drug sales business to medicine manufacturers, wholesalers, medical institutions and individuals within the country, beginning from December 1, according to a set of exclusive regulations legalizing on-line medicine trade services, issued by the State Food and Drug Administration (SFDA) last Saturday.

According to the regulations, three kinds of businesses can engage in Internet trading: medicine manufacturers selling medicine to medicine wholesalers and medical institutions; qualified enterprises selling to medicine manufacturers and medical institutions; and drug chain stores selling to consumers.

Any manufacturers and enterprises intending to launch Internet businesses should first apply for qualification certificates from the SFDA.

After approval, they then have to demonstrate a trading number from the certificate in a conspicuous place on the home page of their official website.

In the past in China, any type of drug Internet deals among manufacturers, hospi-

tals, or individuals were all strictly forbidden by the Central Government.

He Qiurong, the SFDA's Public Relation Director, said that such prohibition was ineffective, adding that as a result, "illegal underground businesses rampantly increased."

"To avoid supervision and punishment, illegal drug dealers hid in common shopping websites, or masqueraded their products as health care medicines," explained He.

"However, we can not let such illegal events prevent the increasingly natural market of medicine supply and demand in the country."

"Thus, we should guide the development of a healthy market, rather than forbid everything."

In fact, how to stop fake or poor quality medicines from flowing into the market and how to supervise OTC medicines that contain sensitive components has always been a top concern, according to He.

"The administration and the Central Government promise that no OTC containing sensitive components or dangerous components that consumers have to use based upon prescription will be the trading list this time." He said.

Number News

4 More than US\$4 billion has been illegally spent by government officials in South China's Guangdong Province while another US\$7 billion has also been lost due to poor management, with more than 400 officials involved in one way or another in the scam, according to a report by Zeng Shouxi, director of the Guangdong Provincial Audit Department on Saturday.

6.2 China has decided to offer emergency aid worth US\$6.2 million to Pakistan, which was rocked by a 7.6-magnitude quake Saturday morning together with India and Afghanistan, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Kong Quan said on Sunday.

7 More than 7 percent of China's total population is aged 65 or above, posing a big problem to the country's work for senior citizens, said State Council vice premier Hui Liangyu on Sunday.

10 major traffic accidents across China during the weeklong National Day holiday period claimed 77 lives and injured 122 others, up 35 and 88 people respectively from last year's figures, according to the Ministry of Public Security on Monday.

16 Only 16 percent of Chinese consumers believe that it is the right time to buy commercial houses, down two percent from June, according to a survey published by the National Bureau of Statistics on Monday.

26 The number of depression patients in China recently exceeded 26 million, of whom 60 percent never go to the hospital, said Cai Zhuoji, director of the China Mental Health Association, on Monday.

38 The health and education ministries were among the 38 government bodies that improperly used budget funds in the 2003-04 fiscal year, according to the long-awaited findings released by the National Audit Office on its website recently.

160 China has 160 million high blood pressure patients, including 50 percent of senior citizens over 65, or 47 million who pose a great threat not only to their lives, but also to economic and social development, said Hong Zhaoguang, a consultant with the Ministry of Health on Sunday.

8,844.43 The latest measured height of Mount Qomolangma is 8,844.43 meters, the Chinese State Bureau of Surveying and Mapping announced in Beijing on Sunday.

(By Feng Nianhua)

Weekly Review – World

P&G gets green light to acquire Gillette

Procter & Gamble Co., fresh off its US\$57 billion acquisition of Gillette Co., can keep growing, its chief executive said Tuesday. “The combined company totals some US\$70 billion in annual sales and a market capitalization of some US\$200 billion,” A.G. Lafley, chairman, president and CEO said. P&G closed its US\$57 billion acquisition of Gillette, maker of razors, Braun electric shavers, Duracell batteries and other products, less than two weeks ago. – AP

Microsoft, Yahoo reach IM partnership

Microsoft Corp. and Yahoo Inc.’s move to make their instant messaging programs work together comes just as the popular communications tool is beginning to expand into such fields as video chatting and Internet telephone functions. But for now at least, the two companies said their partnership announced Wednesday will focus on traditional instant messaging, allowing people with either system to send lightning-fast messages to each other. That is expected to be in place by June 2006. The partnership could give the companies more power to compete against market leader America Online and perhaps dark horse Google Inc., which launched its own service, Google Talk, in September. – AP

Inco’s purchase of Falconbridge will boost bargaining edge

Inco Ltd.’s purchase of Falconbridge Ltd., creating the world’s biggest nickel producer, will strengthen its bargaining position in negotiations with customers, industry representatives said. Inco agreed to buy rival Canadian mining company Falconbridge for as much as C\$12.8 billion (US\$10.9 billion), the companies announced Wednesday. The new entity will produce 330,000 metric tons of nickel a year, or a quarter of global output estimated at 1.31 million tons by the International Nickel Study Group. Nickel is used to make steel rust-proof. – Bloomberg

Mittal to invest US\$9 billion in India

Mittal Steel Co, the world’s top steel maker, has signed an agreement to build a 12-million-tonne steel plant in eastern India, the company said in a statement. Under the agreement, Mittal Steel will invest about 400 billion rupees (US\$9 billion) to mine iron ore and build the steel plant in Jharkhand. The project would be developed in two phases of six million tonnes each with the first phase expected to be completed within 48 months of the agreement. The second phase would be completed within 54 months after the completion of the first. – Reuters

Apple introduces video iPod, TV deals

Apple Computer Inc. introduced an iPod capable of playing videos on Wednesday, evolving the portable music player of choice into a multimedia platform for everything from TV shows to music videos. Videos will now be sold online alongside songs on Apple’s iTunes store. Citing a groundbreaking deal with ABC Television Group, Apple chief executive Steve Jobs said video offerings via iTunes will include episodes for \$1.99 each of the hit shows *Desperate Housewives* and *Lost*, which will be available the day after they air on television. The purchased video can be watched on a computer or taken on the road for viewing on the new iPod’s 2.5-inch color screen. – AP

Outlook

US top economic team seeks more access to China

The Bush administration is fielding its top economic team for the G20 meeting and the US-China Joint Economic Committee meeting in Beijing next week. US Treasury Secretary John Snow leads the delegation, backed by Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan. Snow and Wall Street investment banks are to press Beijing to allow more foreign firms into the country’s protected capital markets, a sign of China’s growing importance to “bulge bracket” businesses.

Snow urged China to relax its grip on its currency to stimulate global growth as he prepared to take US demands for reform to the heart of the Asian economic powerhouse. Snow applauded Beijing’s “historic step” in July to end its decade-long currency peg to the dollar in favor of a managed float against a basket of currencies and to revalue the yuan by 2.1 percent. Snow stressed that currency reform needed to be coupled with efforts by China to boost domestic demand, saying: “We see the two going hand in hand”. A top-level US team led by Snow and Federal Reserve chairman Alan Greenspan will also thrash out an agenda with senior Chinese officials including Finance Minister Jin Renqing and Central Bank governor Zhou Xiaochuan. – AFP

Analyst’s Take:
The G-20 meeting will focus on four topics: the reform of international financial architecture, the sound development of international financing, and the balanced and fair development of the world economy, aging and immigration problems. There is every probability that two statements will be published during the meeting.
The G-20 is an informal forum which seeks to promote an open and constructive dialogue between industrial nations and emerging-market countries on key issues relating to the international monetary and financial system and, to help strengthen the international financial architecture.
Established in 1979, the US-China Joint Economic Committee will also have its 16th meeting during October 16-17. The US government has felt somewhat disappointed by the situation, because it had hoped for greater moves in the following weeks and months after China revalued the yuan upward by 2.1 percent.
Thanks to Snow’s trip, the Treasury postponed the release of a twice-yearly report on global currency policies. According to the report, China should be regarded as a manipulator of its exchange rate and one measure would impose 27.5 percent tariffs on all Chinese imports unless the country takes more steps to allow its currency to rise in value against the dollar. The report will be submitted in early November.
It is inevitable that the yuan will enter the market. However, it is also step-by-step process. The US government expects that China should allow the yuan to rise in value by around 20 percent, or even up to 40 percent to help reduce soaring US trade deficits. People should take an unbiased attitude on trade disputes. In fact, the yuan’s rise in value couldn’t reduce soaring US trade deficits at root.
On one hand, the US is showing its good intentions to better develop economic and trade relations with China. On the other hand, the US Treasury will incorporate what it learns from the discussions in Beijing and fact-finding trips.
Although trade disputes between the US and China have been appearing successively, their economy and trade cooperation has good momentum. Both sides have shown more sincerity than before. The US has a new attitude to China’s rise to power and would rather regard China as a partner, not a competitor.
– Chen Fengying, director of Institute of World Economics at China Institute of Contemporary International Relations (Qiu Jiaoning)

Alcoa joins hands with CITIC Group



Alcoa, the world’s leading aluminum producer, held an opening ceremony for setting up a joint venture with CITIC Group. Joseph Muscari (center), vice-president of Alcol, attended the news conference in the Great Hall of The People. With 1.36 billion yuan (US\$168 million) coming from Alcoa, the company

takes a 73 percent stake of the joint venture company, Qinghuangdao-based Alcoa Bohai Aluminum Industries Company. With a 27 percent stake, CITIC Group mainly provides service and equipment support for the new company, leaving the controlling power of manufacturing and management to Alcoa. Photo by CFP

Europe opens door to Chinese herbal medicine

By Han Manman
Chinese herbal medicine products can finally enter the European market once the companies successfully apply for a license. The formal registration period is from October 30 to April 30, 2011. However, many of these companies may have difficulty meeting the simplified registration requirements. “Before this, Chinese herbal medicine was not allowed to be prescribed or sold as a medicine in Europe. It could only be sold as a food additive or health care product,” Zou Jianqiang, section chief of the Ministry of Science and Technology said.

According to the new European Union Traditional Herbal Medicines Directive established in April 30 last year, the formal registration application regulations come into force on October 30 this year, but before that day the directive provides a special simplified registration procedure for traditional herbal medicinal producers all over the world. The simplified registration would avoid many application procedure troubles and save a lot of money. However, no Chinese company has so far achieved these requirements. To enter the European market, traditional, over-the-counter herbal remedies have to

meet standards of safety and quality and meet standardization regulations across Europe. The EU also requires that a product must be shown to have been in use for 30 years in the EU (or at least 15 years in the EU and 15 years elsewhere.) “The Directive is a chance for China and it is also a challenge. For more than 300 Chinese herbal medicine products selling in Europe, these products may need to be withdrawn if they have not been registered by 2011,” Dong Zhilin, chairman of the European Federation of Chinese Medicine Societies pointed out, adding: “So far, most of the products do not meet the

requirements. There are only one or two qualified enterprises at present, like CMC Tasly Group.” Tasly has already applied for registration. Now Chinese medicine exports only occupies 1.2 percent in a market of US\$60 billion, and has less than a three percent share in the European market, and only in recent years has it got legal status in Australia, Canada and Belgium. “Chinese herbal medicine will have a rosy future in the European market, but the first thing for Chinese experts is to know how to prepare the information and make clear the registration procedure,” said Dong.

Uni-President marches on mainland beverage industry

By Han Manman
Taiwan’s largest food conglomerate Uni-President Enterprises Corp. ought to be celebrating after concluding its purchase of the Sanshui Jianlibao Commercial Company, a subsidiary of the Jianlibao Group. Uni-President only offered 1 million yuan – an unbelievably low price – and successfully obtained all of Sanshui

Jianlibao, the sole agent of Jianlibao products. Getting Sanshui Jianlibao means Uni-President controls Jianlibao’s sales rights and distribution system on the mainland. In fact, Uni-President had already reached a preliminary agreement with Jianlibao Group in Beijing last October, and then started acquisition talks; the former offer was 520 million yuan. Two weeks later, however,

the two sides were caught in a logjam due to disputes between Uni-President’s former shareholders and the fact that some executives at Jianlibao did not want to become a subsidiary of Uni-President. Meanwhile, Jianlibao had defaulted on paying employee salaries for two months, and could not make loan interest payments. It was on the brink of shutdown. Wu Fuzhang, the former

Uni-President general manager of the East Region on the mainland, has been appointed general manager of Sanshui Jianlibao. Uni-President will also dispatch its project research and development employees to Sanshui. Besides Jianlibao’s own brand, Uni-President also plans to design new products to extend its position in the mainland beverage market.

Weekly Review – Nation

BNP Paribas buys 19.7 percent of Nanjing City Commercial Bank

By Han Manman
BNP Paribas, France’s second largest bank, said it will purchase a 19.7 percent stake of the Nanjing City Commercial Bank (NCCB) to increase its presence in China. The bank spokesman said the investment is less than US\$100 million. NCCB has appointed BNP Paribas nominated Michel Chevalier to join the bank’s 15-member board; the appointment will come into force when both sides sign the deal.

China helps manufacture new Airbus A350

By Chu Meng
China Aviation Industry Corporation (CAIC) is to carry out five percent of all research and development work on the new Airbus long-range A350 aircraft. This is the first time a Chinese aircraft company has been involved in the research and development of a foreign company. An exclusive research and development center cosponsored by Airbus and CAIC was established in Beijing in July. Airbus has already received 140 firm orders from nine world-renowned customers.

DaimlerChrysler forms Northeast Asia HQ in China

By Grace Wei
DaimlerChrysler announced the formation of a new regional headquarters for Northeast Asia, which includes all the company operations in China, Chinese Hong Kong and Macao special administrative regions, Taiwan Province and the Republic of Korea. The regional headquarters, called DaimlerChrysler Northeast Asia (DCNEA), is located in Beijing and reflects the importance of the region and the company’s plans to promote and to expand production and sales of passenger cars, vans, trucks, buses and vehicle financing. Dr. Till Becker became the Chairman and CEO of DCNEA in October.

Acer moves China headquarters to Shanghai

By Grace Wei
Taiwan’s Acer Inc. has moved its China headquarters from Beijing to Shanghai. The new headquarters will help the company advance its operations as the firm’s business partners and suppliers have converged in parts of Shanghai. Acer is the world’s fourth largest PC maker after Lenovo, Hewlett Packard Inc., and Dell Inc, respectively. The company’s Taiwan-based President Gianfranco Lanci says he hopes Acer-branded PC sales in China will account for four to five percent of global sales this year, or about US\$320 million. The company hopes to double its sales in the Chinese mainland market in 2006.

CDC subsidiary acquires online games platform in China

By Wang Juan
CDC Corporation announced it signed an agreement to acquire www.gametea.com (Gametea), a leading online games platform in China through its 81 percent owned subsidiary, China.com Inc. Gametea currently offers its 10 million registered users over 80 online board and poker games. According to the agreement, China.com will acquire all assets, intellectual properties, and operating contracts in Gametea, to be paid for in multiple installments in accordance with pre-determined performance milestones.

Moon land for sale – Is it true?

By Jackie Zhang

Have you ever imagined one day owning a piece of land on the moon? Last month, a company called the Lunar Embassy China appeared in Beijing, claiming that its main business was selling land on the moon and the eight planets in the solar system outside of Earth.

The Lunar Embassy Corp was first established at the end of 1980 by an American man, Dennis M. Hope.

The “Outer Space Treaty” signed by all member countries of the United Nations in 1967 prescribed that no country should own outer space in any way. According to Hope, the treaty did not mention that individuals could not own part of planets or satellites.

Since the appearance of the Lunar Embassy in Beijing, different Chinese news medias have covered it.

In last Sunday's *Beijing News*, lawyer Wang Liangcai thought that the Lunar Embassy was illegal and suspected its business of selling moon land of being fraudulent. In his opinion, if a person does not own an object, he or she has no right to possess, control, or deal it. He said the moon was the wealth of all people and could not be possessed by individuals.

“It is cheating behavior to sell moon land when you do not possess it,” Wang said

Although many people and professionals expressed their doubt about the Lunar Embassy, many people came to the company to apply for work.

Zhang Jinfeng, a master degree stu-



Wanna land on the Moon?

Photo by Li Yongguang

dent majoring in law at Beijing University, was convinced that this company and its business were legal. He said that Lunar Embassy in the United States had operated for more than 20 years without any legal problems, so the company in Beijing should be legal too.

“The company in Beijing is just a branch selling moon land possessed by Dennis Hope. I don't think the company will have any legal consequences,” Zhang said.

However, a young woman named Guo Yanming could not understand the company's behavior, saying that it was strange to sell moon land on Earth.

“I came here to apply for a working position just out of curiosity. The position that I applied for was that of an activity host. I think it has no relationship with the business of selling moon land and it will not affect me as a result.”

Monday, the Beijing Administration of Industry and Commerce's Chaoyang Branch went to the Lunar Embassy China to investigate because of the recent newspaper reports.

The staff examined the operation license and the authorization certificate by the headquarters of the Lunar Embassy in the United States.

They said that they needed to know more about the relative laws on outer space from aeronautic departments because the company's business was so unique. They added they could not make any decision on whether the company's business was legal or not at the moment.

Li Jie, founder and CEO of Lunar Embassy China, used to be an engineer and became interested in the Lunar Embassy in 1997.

“One of the principles of our company is that activities which are not forbidden by law should be allowed,” said Li. “There is no specific law in China forbidding



Li Jie, founder and CEO of Lunar Embassy China, in his office with the certificate of the Moonland ownership. Photo by Zhang Nan

people from selling moon land. What professionals have reported in newspapers has been irresponsible.

“It is natural for society to have different and strong feelings on this issue. However, when people calm down, they will understand and accept it,” Li added.

Before Li started the branch company in Beijing, there had already six branch companies in the world. They are in Australia, New Zealand, Germany, France, Japan, and the United Kingdom.

Beijing Today attempted to contact these branch companies, but only got a reply from the branch company in France.

Angela Young, the founder and director of MoonEstates.com Ltd in France, said on Tuesday that it was a completely legal business.

When she first started selling the land in 2000, a lot of people had misgivings about it. She was investigated by different organizations, such as the Office of Fair Trading.

“However, each investigation has concluded that what we are doing is legal and they stated that they have no problems at all with what we do,” she said.

Angela suggested the Chinese branch stick with running the business. “People are usually incredulous to begin with, but once they are provided with all of the information about how this is possible and legal, everyone realizes that it is a great thing to be able to buy,” she said.

“It is also much better that normal people can own the land, rather than it just being owned and controlled by rich governments,” she added.

Beijing seniors out in the cold

By Annie Wei

October 11 is Chongyangjie, a traditional Chinese festival for the elderly. According to the custom, on this day, senior citizens go hiking or view flowers. However, for the elderly of the Jinnmengyuan Nursing Home in Beijing's Shijingshan District, they have to worry about where they can live this winter, as high reconstruction fees for heating pipes have left them with nowhere to stay.

Last Sunday, the Jinnmengyuan Nursing Home received a notice from the local environment and protection bureau that asked them to evacuate by the end of October.

Ms. Zhan, the previous dean, said that the local environment and protection bureau asked the nursing home to adopt new pipe heaters instead of the boiler. However, the total reconstruction fee would amount to more than three million yuan (US\$370,924), way too much for such a small nursing home. Therefore, the senior citizens of the nursing home have no other choice but to move.

“In fact, the environment and protection bureau told us to reconstruct the heater pipes last year. Because we didn't have enough money, the bureau agreed to delay it for one more year,” Ms. Zhan said.

“At first, we thought reconstruction would not cost too much money. But the designing fee itself turned out to be 138,000 yuan, while the reconstruction would cost another 2.8 million yuan,” Ms. Zhan said, adding, “The public did not pay much attention to us, as we only got around 10,000 yuan in public donations over the last six years.”

Wen Yongjian, a staff member with the Jinnmengyuan Nursing Home, said that there were over 50 senior citizens.

“For those who can go live with their relatives or children for the winter, we suggest that they do so. For those who have nowhere to go, due to their children being abroad or in another city, we are looking for new places for them right now,” Wen said, adding they could all come back after winter.

The public relations department from the Shijingshan Environment and Protection Bureau gave no comment except to say, “We are not the people responsible for related law or regulation enforcement.”

Guo Yue, from the Welfare Department of the Beijing Civil Affairs Bureau, said that new policies for private nursing homes only began to be carried out in March this year.

“The subsidy that a private nursing home will receive is 100 yuan per month per senior citizen. In Beijing, we do have a plan for providing more support to nursing homes. However, concerning the reconstruction issue, which costs a lot of money, we can help only a certain number of nursing homes each time,” Guo said.

“Right now, we are concentrating on the government-owned nursing homes in the suburban areas of Beijing, while in the next three years we plan to target those belonging to Jiedao (a sub-neighborhood administration),” Guo said, adding, “Private nursing homes have to solve their problems by themselves right now.”

When asked about the situation facing the Jinnmengyuan Nursing Home, Li Fuqin from the Jindongjie Jiedao Nursing Home said that they should be relocated in other nursing homes for the winter, adding, “There are a lot of nursing homes in the Shijingshan area.”

In working in a neighborhood administration-funded nursing home, Li said she did not find as much hardship as what one might encounter in a nursing home.

“We get a lot of support from the government and we also try out best to help the elderly here with their problems,” she said.

When asked about the market for nursing homes in Beijing, Li said, “It's very promising.” According to Li, her nursing home also enrolls senior citizens who are not Beijing residents but with relatives here.



Much more help needed for South Asia earthquake

By Qiu Jiaoning

A strong earthquake, said to be most powerful to hit the region in 100 years, caused massive destruction in northern Pakistan on Saturday, mainly in areas situated close to its epicenter which lies some 95 kilometers northeast of Islamabad in Kashmir.

Large amounts of international aid are being flown in after an earthquake with a magnitude of 7.6 on the Richter scale. It is estimated that 40,000 people have died and nearly five million are homeless after whole communities were flattened in the region touching Pakistan, India and Afghanistan. Most of the quake's victims were in Pakistan, with more than 1,400 people killed in Indian Kashmir. The death toll from the huge earthquake that rocked Pakistan is expected to reach more than 80,000, Islamic Relief spokesman Waseem Yaqhoob told CNN.

Survivors were still being pulled from the rubble of pancaked schools and houses by British, German, French, and Chinese rescue teams. Experts said people

could survive under the rubble up to five or even seven days.

“The recovery efforts have been slowed by bad weather and large parts of the region are still inaccessible because landslides have destroyed the road network,” a UN statement said.

Heavy rain and hail grounded helicopters and stopped trucks loaded with relief supplies Wednesday, imposing more misery on hungry, shivering survivors. The United Nations warned of potentially lethal outbreaks of measles, cholera, and diarrhea. The UN on Tuesday appealed for US\$272 million to fund relief work.

The World Food Program said in a statement that food was needed for at least a million people, but a first shipment sufficient to feed 240,000 for five days might not arrive until later on Wednesday.

The World Bank said it would double its initial commitment of aid to Pakistan to US\$40 million and said the long-term amount could run to hundreds of millions of dollars.

Veteran South Asianist Ma Jiali, re-

search professor at the China Institute of Contemporary International Relations, said: “Although pledges of aid and relief worth hundreds of millions of dollars have poured in from around the world, the country needs much more help for relief and recovery than expected. Now we can hardly estimate the exact losses in the disaster, because the most pressing work is to save lives.”

Professor Ma said that one of the places hardest-hit by the quake was Muzaffarabad, the capital of Pakistani-controlled Kashmir, where most of the homes and all of the government buildings were destroyed. Damages will run into hundreds of millions of dollars. Initial estimates on the cost may be available soon.

“India planned to send a planeload of food, tents, and medicine to its longtime rival in what was seen as a boost to the peace process between the two nuclear-armed neighbors. Pakistan's acceptance of aid from India is regarded as a spur to the peace process and augurs well in im-

proving relations between Pakistan and India. It shows both countries want to show goodwill whenever the opportunity arrives,” Ma noted.

Zhang Xiaodong from the China Center of Digital Seismic Network said: “The earthquake reflects that the India Plate is becoming more and more compressed than the Eurasian Plate.”

“The collision with the Eurasian Plate along the boundary between India and Nepal formed the orogenic belt that created the Tibetan Plateau and the Himalaya Mountains, as sediment bunched up like earth before a plow. The earthquake took place at the northwest corner of the Indian Plate, which is the exact collision point,” Zhang explained.

In reviewing the 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake, we can find that the 9.0-magnitude earthquake was also caused by stress in the subduction zone where the India Plate is sliding under the Burma Plate in the eastern Indian Ocean. Like all similarly large earthquakes, the event was caused by thrust-faulting, said Zhang.

Virtual history protects today's Forbidden City

By Zhou Ying

The Forbidden City took another step into the future on Monday with the release of the second volume of virtual reality (VR) product, entitled *The Forbidden City: The Palace of Emperors*.

The VR product is seen as a special gift for the museum's 80th birthday.

"The second volume mainly focuses on the technology of the construction of the three main palaces," said Professor Li Yongge, director with the ancient building section of the Palace Museum. "Such kinds of products can replace the traditional way of collecting data, such as material, pictures, and records, which can easily be destroyed by disasters," Li said.

Based on the first volume that was jointly designed by the Institute for Digitization of the Palace Museum Heritage and Toppan Printing Company in 2003, the latest edition was produced by researchers and experts from the museum.

Xu Hu, deputy director and senior engineer of the institute, said that the product, with its advanced scientific technology, was the best way to preserve and protect the great museum. "Although people have never

stopped trying to renovate and protect these former imperial palaces, some inevitably are not as splendid as before. Therefore, the Palace Museum wants to preserve accurate information concerning the configuration and color of some culture heritages via virtual reality technology," Xu explained.

VR creates a man-made environment via computer. Human senses and feelings about the virtual condition can be used to do experiments and research. It can help people find countermeasures against fatal accidents or catastrophes by simulating flying or natural disasters.

A joint effort by China and Japan, the institute for the digitization of the museum was launched in 2003, making it the first international research center in China for cultural museums.

"We finished our first period of five-year cooperation since 2000, and today we are here to make an agreement to continue another five-year

'The digital product - as well as the repair work - show the importance placed on the protection and maintenance of The Forbidden City.'

- Li Yongge, director with the ancient building section of the Palace Museum

joint research on how to further enhance the digital development of the museum," Xu added.

However, it will be a long time before visitors can have a close look at the product because of the immature technology. "It is not the right time to show it to the public, because Chinese VR technology is in its infancy. We need to do more research," Xu added.

In order to welcome the 80th anniversary of the Palace Museum, repair and maintenance work for the west road-including the Wu Ying Palace in the Forbidden City — was carried out in 2003. The work is expected to last 20 years.

The statistics released by The Forbidden City after National Day revealed that the total number of visitors during first three days' National Day Holiday was 83,200, 66 percent higher than the acceptable capability. Li was concerned that such a large number of visitors may bring heavy burdens to the museum and may have a negative affect on the main-

tenance task. "I suggest that control of the number of daily visitors may solve the problem; however, it may take time to launch an effective system," he added.

Qi Peijuan, secretary of the information department said that the palace is expected to receive an increased number of visitors as more buildings are opened after renovations. More than 80 percent of the palace will be open in the future instead of the current one-third.

"The launch of two new research centers on the ancient porcelain, painting and calligraphy today reflects the fact that the east six palaces of the museum will be on show to the public from now on," Qi said. Zheng Xinmiao, curator of The Forbidden City, said that a modern exhibition hall would be built if it can be done in line with principles for the protection of the Imperial Palace and in harmony with the overall appearance.

According to Professor Qi, many new exhibitions will open to the public in the near future-such as "Long Live the Royal House Treasures of the Qing Palace" — which will showcase the artistic achievements of the Chinese dating back 200 years.

Information super highway helps dodge traffic

By Annie Wei

Drivers who want to beat the growing traffic jams now have the chance to monitor the traffic on their route thanks to new Internet links.

Through these links, anyone can watch the live traffic situation on 58 roads in Beijing.

The media-player links (from mms://real.u-mail.cn/cebeijing1 to cebeijing58) were pasted in many neighborhood BBS, attracting the interests of online surfers.

There were positive responses to the BBS links. Online surfers have confirmed 23 locations, such as Sanyuanqiao, Dongzhimen and Xizhimen. All of them are main traffic arteries.

Uni New Space, a multimedia messaging company sub-division of China Unicom, is the host source for the information. Pan Deng from the company said, "We started providing multimedia messaging services to cell phone users last year. This project, named 'City-eye', is

providing live traffic-monitoring information for big cities like Beijing and Shanghai."

Pan said this service got positive feedback from subscribers. Although they did not plan to put the information online, Pan said, "We just realized its a good way to promote our service." According to Pan, a lot of cell phone users might not know how to order the service and not every cell phone can support it.

As it is not an administrative organization, people might wonder whether any company is allowed to install cameras. Pan said that installing cameras on tall buildings in Beijing was common, and that they were cooperating with the Public Security Bureau and the Committee of Communication.

Zhu Haibo, a lawyer from King & Woods Law Firm said that there were no laws restricting where to install a camera, or who could do this, as long as it did not interfere with privacy or deal with illegal content.

Compensation for cancelled air show tickets

By Jia Ting

A ticket agency that refused to give refunds for the cancelled French Air-Force show in September 2004 was ordered to reimburse one of its customers after a lengthy legal wrangle.

The First Intermediate Court made the final judgment on the dispute between Mr. Liu and Wanglian Company this week.

Mr. Liu purchased four tickets for the aerobatic show of the French Air Force's famous aerobatic team La Patrouille de France in Beijing from the ticket agency Wanglian Company. The four tickets cost 450 yuan. But the aerobatic show, which was scheduled to be staged during the National Day Holidays, was later cancelled because of low visibility and heavy fog. Many of the spectators who purchased the tickets unsuccessfully tried to get the agency to reimburse them.

Mr. Liu decided to sue the ticket agency. The first trial court rejected the claim against the ticket agency last May. The court said that the agency was not the organizer of the show, and that the show was cancelled due to uncontrollable weather conditions. A claim that the ticket was not refundable appeared on the ticket.

Mr. Liu then appealed to the First Intermediate Court. The court considered the situation as the ticket service contract between the ticket agency and the customer. The court ruled that a refund of the ticket, like the purchase of the ticket, was part of the service contract, and that the non-refundable claim on the ticket was unfair, unreasonable and invalid. The court ruled Wanglian Company should refund the 450 yuan ticket fare to Mr. Liu.



Beautiful babes ready for the Grand Prix

By Jackie Zhang

Sixty-six 'Formula 1 Babes' from Beijing Institute of Technology (BITC) and China Petroleum & Chemical Corporation made a public appearance on Tuesday before heading off to Shanghai for the Formula 1 Sinopec Chinese Grand Prix.

The women will be responsible for the car positions' guide, field services, and information material delivery at Sunday's Grand

Prix. The 'babes' will be wearing specially-designed dresses by BITC.

Fifty of the 66 girls are professional models from BITC and the 16 others come from China Petroleum & Chemical Corporation. Many of the girls have been awarded in domestic or international professional competitions. They have undergone training in professional etiquette, foreign languages and F1 knowledge.

Photo by Chen Bai



Photo by Zhou Lei

'Hello, this is the police'

By Wang Xiaoyuan

"An Ning Ha Xie Yo, Ce Nen Jing Caer Inmi Da." (Hello, this is the police) This Monday, the police from the Exit and Entry Management Section of Chaoyang Police Sta-

tion gave a Korean class to policeman in Nanhu Police Station, Wangjing. The policemen there are working hard to learn the language as about one third of the residents in Wangjing are Korean.

City subway speeds up

By Terry Jan

Subway Line 13 has sped up from 43.9 km/hr to 45.6 km/hr as of last Sunday. The accelerated train has decreased the total running time by two minutes.

Subway Line 13 has become the main form of public transport for residents in the north part of capital since it began operations in 2003. Problems of overcrowding during peak times and long intervals at non-peak times have since emerged.

According to Beijing Subway, along with the acceleration of the train speed this time, the interval times between each train has also been shortened: peak time intervals have decreased from six minutes to five minutes; the non-peak time interval has decreased from fifteen minutes to ten minutes thirty seconds. The transport capacity has also increased 20 percent, adding three trains to reach a total of 23 trains in operation at any one time.

Art meets business: CBD to get a sculpture park

By Annie Wei

Plans for a sculpture park in Beijing's Central Business District (CBD) was discussed at a symposium held before the National Holidays. Overseas and local sculptors contributed to the discussions on the first of four new parks in the CBD.

The symposium was organized by the Beijing CBD Management Committee and the Center Academy of Fine Arts. Li Guohong, a director from the city planning department of CBD Management Committee, said the sculpture park would be located in the northwest of the CBD area, on the south side of Xingchenguoji, a real estate project. The park will be an uneven circle of 2.5 hectares. Li said that the actual construction of the park will start at the end of next year and would be finished before 2008.

"Works by international sculpture masters will be placed between the lawns," Sun Wei, a professor from Central Academy of Fine Arts said. "The sculpture park will be the center of a south-north green and open-space path."

According to a bio-environment city plan released in 2004, there will be four themed parks in the CBD: the second will be south of Jianwai SOHO; the third near the new CCTV building; the fourth to the west of Beijing Television and Art Center. These parks will form four green laces in Beijing, and create a better bio-system and multi-open spaces. Each park will be around 2.5 hectares with unique characteristics.

Su Wei, director of the CBD Management Committee, explained the CBD needed a sculpture park, saying that this area had gathered many international corporations and famous companies, and had become one of the most active districts in Beijing.

UFO man fights for the right to theorize

By Jackie Zhang

Guo Yingsen, a 50-year-old unemployed worker from Liaoning province, northeastern China, has spent the last month in Beijing in a vain attempt to debate with professionals on the issue of UFOs (unidentified flying objects).

Guo claimed that he had seen a UFO with his own eyes in 1994. "Although I am a middle school graduate, I started study and research on UFOs myself. I've spent ten years on the research and I have finally proved that UFOs are airplanes from planets in outer space. I have also got a conclusion on the flying and production theory of UFO by basic physical principles."

Guo had laid his conclusion and personal theories on a board at the gate of Beijing University for three days from last Saturday. "Many people crowded around the board on these days. The crowd sometimes even blocked one side of the gate," said the gate keeper of Beijing University, "He came every morning and left at around four or five in the afternoon. One day, a professor of the university went to discuss the issue of UFOs with him, but soon their discussion became a quarrel. Both of them stuck to their opinions and did not give way. Finally, the professor left."

A Physics student in Beijing University said that she did not believe Guo's theory. "I think his theories all come from suppositions."

This Tuesday, Guo came to Tsinghua University and displayed his board at the eastern gate. But no one came to see it. "He displayed the board for about 10 minutes," said the gate security. "Then, people from the police station in our university drove him away."

After being brushed away from Tsinghua University, Guo came to the Institute of Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences. However, few people went to communicate with him. "He claimed that nobody can solve the problem he raised on the issue of UFOs and he only wanted to communicate with professionals in the institute," said the gatekeeper.

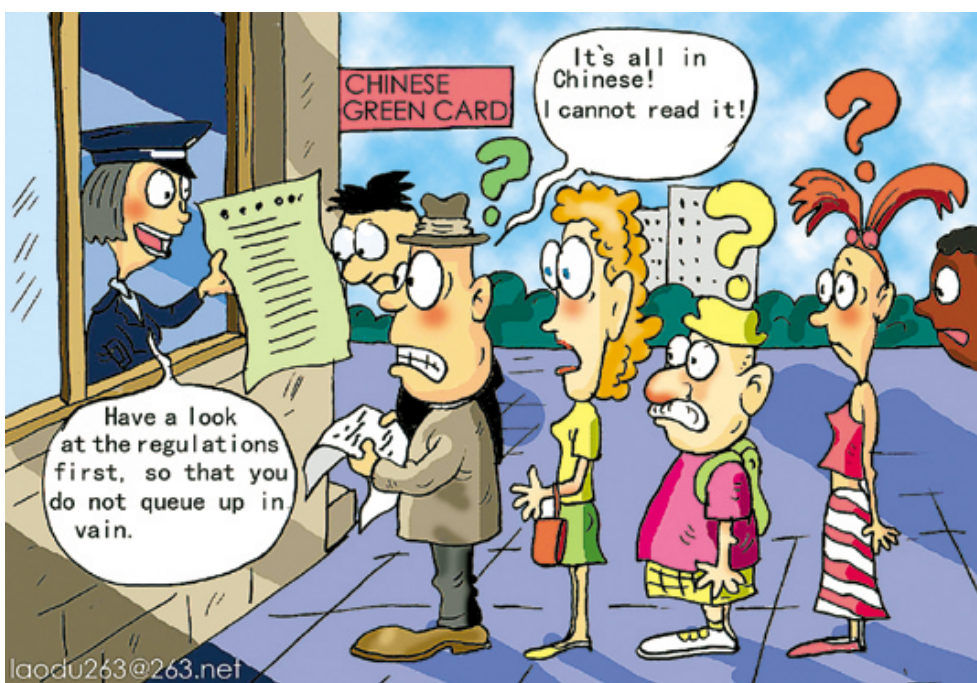
Du Chunguang, the associate professor from the Department of Physics, said that as personal interests, Guo's behavior should be encouraged. "However, from professional point of view, I can hardly accept his theories. The UFO issue is complicated and even professionals cannot explain it. After all, he is a middle school graduate."

By Wang Xiaoyuan

Darren Hunt is an American who came to Beijing about seven months ago. He owns his own technology company for education development. As The Ministry of Public Security announced the formal implementation of The Supervisory Laws Governing the Examination and Approval of Foreigners Being Granted the Right to Permanent Residence (Supervisory Laws) on August 15, 2004, Hunt finds it necessary to apply for a Chinese green card.

"It doesn't mean that getting a green card can let me have the right to vote or pay lower tax as a Chinese resident, but it makes me feel more involved. I want to live in China and be part of the people, especially the handicapped people. Owning a green card can help me to do more social work," explained Hunt.

However, will Hunt be issued a green card just because of his benign intentions?



Chinese green card: small card for a big name?

Why a Chinese green card?

Most of the green card applicants apply for permanent residence and traveling convenience. The complicated renewal system and the relevant documentation required are more reasons to apply.

Fred Smith, a Briton, who worked for an international marketing company in Shanghai, explains: "I received a residence permit within a few weeks of arriving in China. Now that I've been here for two years, I've had my documents renewed several times and it's never been a hassle. In fact, my visa expires next month, and we'll do the same thing we did last time — someone will come to pick up my paperwork and return it a week later with extended dates. Yes, trivial. If my employer does not provide me with a visa, residence permit, and work permit in time, I will not be able to work for them."

Who can get a green card?

According to the Regulations on Examination and Approval of Permanent Residence of Aliens in China, officially announced on August 15, eligibility for per-

manent residence mainly applies to four categories of people:

The first group is high-level foreign personnel who hold posts in businesses which promote China's economic, scientific and technological development or social progress; the second category includes foreign citizens who make a relatively large direct investment in China; the third includes foreigners who have made outstanding contributions or are of special importance to China, and the fourth includes foreigners who come to China to join their spouses or be with their families.

Darren Hunt is confused. None of the four items, except the last one, gives a clear or specific conception of the "important role," "outstanding contribution" or "considerable investment". "I guess they only prefer people with a big name," he said.

In August 2004, the first batch of applications for Chinese green cards was approved; however, all ten applicants were foreign experts who had been issued certificates for resettlement or permanent residence for over ten years. All they need-

ed to do was to change a piece of paper into a solid card.

At present, a total of 156 foreigners from 20 countries hold either one of the two kinds of certificates above and they are living and working in Beijing, according to Liu Jiewei, an official in the Entry-Exit Administrative Division.

Another official of the Division said that the applicant for a Chinese green card must have been staying in China for at least four years, making a private investment from 500,000 to 2,000,000 US dollars. Even for the spouse of a Chinese resident, he/she can only apply for the green card in Beijing, as long as their spouse has Beijing citizenship (*Hu Kou*). At the moment, only Beijing, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan have begun to issue the Chinese green cards.

The main threshold

Miss J Fang, who has been working for an international agent for over five years, expressed her own opinion about Chinese green card application. "For most of the foreigners doing business in China,

a multi-entry visa and a 1-5 year residence permit is enough. Their main problem is language. Although Entry-Exit Management Section staff speak English they are not able to give a detailed explanation for every item. Applicants must go to the Section to ask for references themselves, which, however, is not available in English online."

"Another problem is the long queue and communication at the counter," Fang said. "My clients are usually too busy to do the application themselves, so they would rather pay some agent fees to save time and trouble. This is another reason that the green card is not a must. The visa-renewal job can be done by international agents regularly."

"In a word, a man who meets the financial requirements does not need a green card; otherwise, a common one without any investment or a Chinese spouse will not be issued a green card."

Explanation from the authorities

The police in charge of green card applications from the Exit and Entry Management Section gave some advice in response to questions raised by foreigners.

"It will take time for the Supervisory Law to be completed. At the moment we do not have an authentic English version; however, we do hope that the translation will be available in the future. For all applicants, the most convenient way to reach us is to call 84020101 for a consultation. If the staff are not able to fulfill the requirements, they can come to the counter directly. We advise all foreign applicants to come with a Chinese companion for language assistance."

The police explained that they are not supposed to give any detailed numbers or methods to measure contributions. This is because the conditions must be approved by the government and the relevant departments. Only family conditions can be confirmed directly at the counter. "The Supervisory Law has been put into effect nationwide. How soon it will be localized depends on the efficiency of the local government. Now foreigners must apply for a green card in the city where their family or spouse's *Hu Kou* originates."

The police strongly advise foreigners who wish to stay in China to apply for a residence certificate: "Compared with Chinese green card, the certificate is more realistic and easier to issue. Usually the application only takes four days and is valid for two years. The green card is still an honorary thing in some respects."

Recently Xiang Yang, a lawyer with the Beijing Zhongfu Law Firm, explained the benefits of the Chinese green card:

Long validity:

A Chinese green card for foreigners below 18 years of age is valid for five years and for those above 18, it is valid for 10 years. Because the Ministry of Public Security issues the card, it is valid throughout China.

Easy entry and exit:

With a passport and Chinese green card one can go in and out of China freely. A Chinese green card can also be used separately as a legal certificate to stay in Beijing.

Employment:

There are no regulations limiting foreigners with Chinese green cards concerning employment. That means foreign experts with a Chinese green card should be allowed to work according to all Chinese labor laws.

Rent:

Foreign experts with a Chinese green card have the same rights in civil and commercial affairs as Chinese citizens. They can rent or lease houses without examination or approval from the public security bureau.



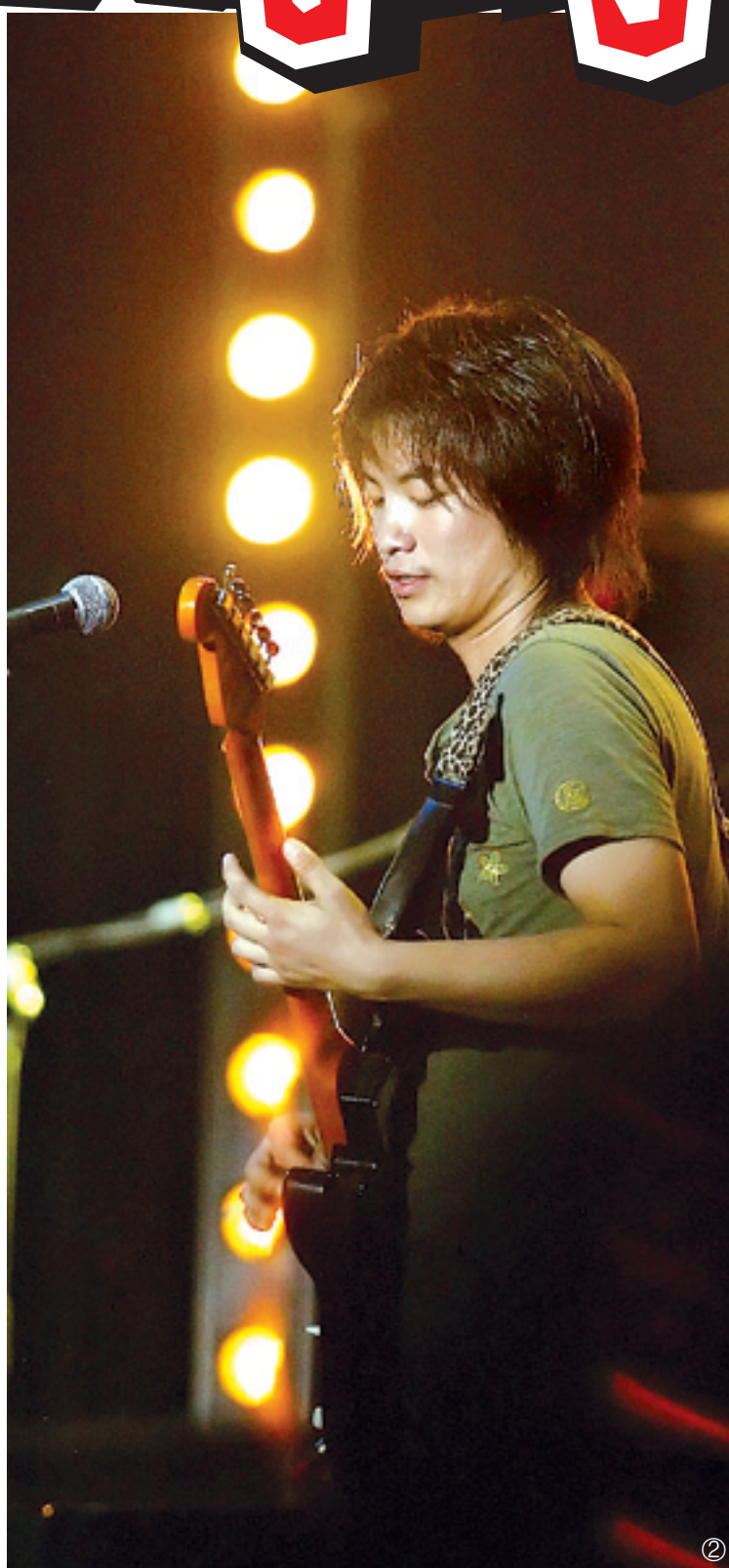
Beijing rocks!

By Simon Lim

Beijing rocked and with style during the Midi Music Festival, held over the first days of the October holiday. Pop-punks, art rockers, industrial metal heads, and foreign bands came together to give those stuck in the capital something to croon about and a fantastic way to spend the Golden Week outdoors without the need to travel.

This, the 5th annual festival was organized by the Beijing Midi School of Music. Held at Haidian Park over four days, it attracted many college kids, rock band fans and even the odd granny with family in tow. This was the place to catch the loud T-shirts with even louder slogans, face piercing, and hair that would make the most liberal hairstylist cringe. Diehard fans enjoyed the ear busting music with plenty of Yanjing beer, and even bought T-shirts proclaiming politically incorrect inclinations!

With over 40 local and international acts, the festival boasted the biggest line-up yet and the location was chosen for its ability to host an outdoor gig with loud music without the residential killjoys. The Midi School's commitment to supporting local music talent, its experience, history and a solid fan base ensure that future gigs can only get better.



"Photography has always been a passion ever since I got my first Kodak Instantmatic. It is also a means for me to record events, people, and the ever-changing landscape of our modern society no matter where I am."

— Simon Lim
(Singapore)

① Chengdu's biggest rock band, Sound and Toys, entertains a rapturous crowd during the 4 days long Midi Music Festival in Haidian Park, Beijing, October 3, 2005.

② Sound and Toys.

③ Drums: noisy.

④ Heavy rock band, Lingyi (Zero One), bares its soul to the legion of diehard fans.

⑤ / ⑥ / ⑦ This place is 'in-tents!'

⑧ Crazy hair.

Photos by Simon Lim

This page is looking for freelance photographers. Experience and professionalism are not a must. We want your own perspective and views about Beijing. If you have any work that may interest us, please contact sunming@ynet.com, or call at 65902523.

Chic mothers-to-be



Carol Christian Poell

By Shelley Xie

For most women there is a nine-month period that they are mentally happy, except when they look into their wardrobes and see only baggy overalls, big shirts and tent-like dresses.

The limited selections and dull colors of maternity clothes dominate discussions of mothers-to-be. Certainly, most pregnant corporate women need to continue their work for the first few months, so they need professional clothing that fits their expanding frame. At home or out shopping, they wear their husband's shirt out of desperation, and go crazy because they look even bigger.

Does pregnancy mean that a woman's stylish days are over?

Modern moms-to-be are promoting and enjoying a totally new concept – fashionable maternity clothing. The

idea originated from several despairing mothers-to-be who couldn't find pregnant clothes that fitted and decided to set up their own brands of maternity fashion.

From figure-hugging print wrap dresses, to skinny-leg jeans, from strappy evening frocks to pleated skirts, now maternity clothes are designed to compliment every mom-to-be and her changing shape, and to accommodate the changing physical needs of the expectant mothers.

Eagerly awaiting the birth of their new baby, they have no plans to miss a step in the fashion circles, buying jeans, halter-necks and tank tops to fit women from month one to month seven in their pregnancy. When fashions are available to show the feminine beauty of pregnancy, moms-to-be are ready to embrace their new shape and additional weight.



Formes



TK Designs



TK Designs

Well-known celebrities have played a major role in bringing the blooming pregnant body to the fore. The very pregnant Catherine Zeta-Jones looked glamorous in the chocolate Versace at the 2003 Oscars; Kate Hudson, six-months-pregnant, wore a Chanel to a children's charity party; and heavily pregnant Reese Witherspoon was radiant in a white sleeveless Prada dress for the premiere of *Legally Blonde 2*.

"Women in Hollywood used to go into hiding during their pregnancies," says maternity designer Liz Lange, whose clients including Sarah Jessica Parker, Gwyneth Paltrow and Kate Winslet, "But now they are proud of their bodies and show them off during this most exciting time in their lives. I think they've helped society in general to realize that pregnancy really is beautiful and sexy – this has definitely influenced maternity fashion."

When you reach a point when you cannot hide it, even if you wanted to, why not show it off? That's why the stretch fabrics like Lycra are in maternity tanks and shirts – the more flexible the clothes, the better the fit.

Must-have items to get through the pregnancy

A selection of stretch singlets or tops – layer them under a suit for work and team them with skirts or pants for the weekend or evening.

Drawstring pants – as the belly grows bigger, they can be worn underneath it. Dress them up with a suit jacket for work or a sparkly beaded singlet for the evening.

A **slinky evening dress** – there is no need to look frumpy when you are pregnant. Show off your new cleavage in a sexy spaghetti-strap frock.

A **tunic or kaftan** to wear over pants or jeans: think soft fabrics, just big enough to cover your belly comfortably. Note: you don't want a tent.

Shoes – your feet may swell and ligaments may loosen, so you can go up half a size during pregnancy. A great pair of colored embellished flats will work with anything.

Bras – you may have to go through several phases of bra buying during the pregnancy, so save some time and pennies by investing in well-fitting bras. Wider bands across the bottom, and wide straps and cotton-based fabrics with lycra are suggested.

Bikini – with the belly-baring trend that Jennifer Aniston ignited on *Friends*, the bikini is perfectly cut to rest low on the hips and under the belly. Match a top that is as revealing as it is comfortable along the swimming pool.

Preparing for newborn babies

By Shelley Xie

Shopping for babies is a great pleasure for moms and dads-to-be. Various safe and smart products are on the market to welcome the new member of the family.

Joey Clamp & Cutter
By Design Edge (USA)



Joey Clamp & Cutter is designed to reduce blood splashes during labor and delivery, which ensure the safety of both mother and infant. It's easy for doctors to use – cuts and clamps both the maternal and infant sides of the umbilical cord and leaves the cute koala-faced Joey Clamp on the infant.

Dentimaxx
By Baby Nova (Germany)



The Dentimaxx pacifier is designed to help teething babies. Its flat nipple (not the usual round shape) reduces the pressure on infants' teeth and gums, and its butterfly shape fits the mouth naturally. Three kinds of pacifiers – orthodontic, symmetric and round – are available for infants under two years old.

Baby Carrier
By COMBI (Japan)



Carry your baby with you anywhere just like a kangaroo. Newborn infants to 2-year-old babies are accommodated with four kinds of sleeping gesture.

Victoria Diaper Bag
By McKenzie Kids (USA)



It's a fashionable backpack diaper bag. The 2-for-1 bag features a detachable mini-purse with shoulder straps, full-width outside pockets and several inside pockets. Two insulated bottle holders enable you to take enough hot milk for babies, and there are also multiple pockets for toys, snacks and diapers, and even a mirror.

Cradle for Genius
By Ieva Araaja (Lithuania)



When you wing it and hum a song, your baby will have a sweet and colorful dream.

Do you know of a new fashion trend or live an interesting lifestyle? We invite you to share it with us at yushanshan724@ynet.com. Please write "Fashion" in the subject field.

Bouncing back after her new baby

By Shelley Xie

German supermodel Heidi Klum appeared at the Emmy Awards fit and fabulous, with hardly any trace of the birth of her second child Henry six days previously.

Although she has lost most of her baby weight she is still working out to regain her figure in preparation for the Victoria's Secret lingerie show in November. That was all thanks to her personal trainer David Kirsch, who launched her straight into a tough personal training regime and a strict diet after she gave birth – lots of greens, grains, egg whites and protein shakes.

Born June 1, 1973, in Bergische Gladbach, Germany, Heidi was persuaded to participate in a national contest "Model 92" during the winter of 1991. Surprisingly, she kept winning the weekly and monthly stages, and eventually was crowned and offered her first modeling job. However, she turned it down in favor of finishing her studies, despite her 5'9 stature and 35-24-34 measurements.

With strong background in art, Heidi began studying to be a fashion designer.



Klum with her husband Seal



Klum with her first child Leni

She decided to pursue a modeling career while she studied throughout Europe. In 1993, she moved to Miami and then to New York, keeping busy with small but consistent modeling shoots.

As a stunning success with Victoria's Secret from 1997, she gradually gained attention and recognition, most notably from *Sports Illustrated*, which put her on the cover of its famous *Swimsuit Issue* in 1998 and 1999. After that, her calendar was printed, and she became the most coveted supermodel in the world.

Heidi branched out from modeling into acting and hosting on television, firstly in a backstage documentary about models. In 1999, she made her debut ap-

pearing in the ABC hit sitcom *Spin City*, followed by the Miramax film *Blow Dry*. In 2004, she was invited to be the host of Bravo TV series *Project Runway*, a reality show in which contestants compete to win a chance to design clothes for Banana Republic.

However, Heidi never forgot her creative aspirations, and made a return to her roots in fashion design. Her own line of swimwear has been featured in the *Sports Illustrated Swimsuit Issue*. In addition, she designs shoes and jewelry, and is an accomplished painter.

On the romantic front, Heidi married her hairdresser Ric Pipino in 1997, and divorced him in less than five years. She has her first daughter Leni with Flavio Briatore, owner of a Formula-1 racing team. In 2005, she married British singer Seal and had a son.

Heidi Klum gave her name to a new rose in Germany. She admitted that it was a huge honor to join other German greats in the plant world.

"I hope all fans of gardening like the Heidi Klum Rose, so that it will still bloom when my personal flowering time is over."

‘Ancient gods’ descend on Beijing



Rheingold, *The Ring of the Nibelungen*



By Yu Shanshan

The 8th Beijing Music Festival (BMF) to be kicked off tomorrow will witness the Chinese premiere of Richard Wagner's *The Ring of the Nibelungen* and the return of the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra after a 26 year absence.

The Ring

This is the Nuremberg State Theatre's version of the Ring cycle, premiered two years ago. 800 actors as well as the Nuremberg Philharmonic Orchestra will attend this 15 hour journey of opera, drama, music and poetry in the Poly Theatre, over four days. "In Germany, even in the Bayreuther Festspiele which stages the complete 'Ring' every year, one might wait for 5 or 6 years to get a package admission. Miss it in Beijing and you could wait for 50 years," Yu Long, artistic conductor of China Philharmonic Orchestra, said at the press conference.

There's a saying that the Ring operas were written for a non-opera going audience. It traces the origin and lives of the ancient Germanic gods, and their rise to power through deceit, betrayal and manipulation of earthly beings: heavy stuff for people not familiar with the culture. The second is the use of motives (signature tunes) in a systematic manner created by Wagner. A motive can refer to a character, a thing, a place or a psychological mood. But there are many such motives – upwards of two hundred depending on how you count. A deeper appreciation of the Ring becomes possible if one learns to recognize the motives, yet learning so many would be a daunting task.

Yu and Ring fans recommend audiences who intend to go to the opera but are not familiar with it to buy the book of the four stories and the lyrics. Japanese fans, Yu said, usually read through the whole lyrics and keep the motives in mind before they go into the theatre.

October 23, 26, 29 and November 1, the show will start at 6:30 pm and last around four hours. "I myself fell asleep once during a performance," Yu confessed,



Joshua Bell

"But when you are old, you can proudly announce to your grandchildren: I used to sleep at the Ring."

Berliner Philharmoniker

In 1979, Herbert von Karajan unveiled the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra in Beijing. The city had neither the music hall nor long enough hanging ladders to connect the big props. As a result, one of the executive members fell and was hurt due to a fault in the hasty temporary refit, and the top orchestra had to play in a stadium. "Coming this time, they will find a dramatic change has taken place in Beijing," Yu said.

This time, the lead is Sir Simon Rattle and the orchestra will perform the closing concert in Poly Theatre on November 4 and 5. The pieces are Hector Berlioz's *Le Corsaire*, Maurice Ravel's



Simon Rattle

Ma Mere l'oye and Beethoven's *Symphony No.3 (Eroica) in E-flat major, Op.55* on November 4. Considering how rarely the troupe comes to Beijing, Rattle has arranged a diversified repertoire. On the closing night they will perform another three pieces that cover the classical, romantic and 20th century contemporary



The Female Generals of the Yang Family

music – Franz Joseph Haydn's *Symphony No.86 in D major*, Richard Strauss's *Ein Heldenleben*, Op.40, and Thomas Ades's *Asyla*.

Other gems

Apart from giving Beijing audiences significant opera performances, the committee is dedicated to promoting original Chinese modern music. One of the two representatives is composer Ye Xiaogang who performs October 22 at Beijing Concert Hall. The concert comprises three of his latest works – *Song from the Earth* (complete), a re-composition of Gustav Mahler's 1908 piece of the same name; *My Faraway Nanjing* (for Cello and Orchestra), commemorating the 60th anniversary of the Sino-Japanese War; and *Shenzhen's Story* (suite), dance music telling the life of immigrant women in Shenzhen.

The other musical experiment is the orchestral Peking opera *The Female Generals of the Yang Family* (November 2 and 3 at the Centennial Hall of Peking University), which is a cooperation between western-style musicians, Peking opera performers and drama director Lin Zhaochua.

The opening concert tomorrow

night will be led by the conductor Edo de Waart, artistic director of the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra. Korean American violinist Sarah Chang and the China Philharmonic Orchestra will perform Dimitri Schostakovich's *Violin Concerto No.1 in A minor, Op. 77* and Richard Strauss's *Eine Alpensinfonie, Op.64*. Waart is said to be the best teller of Strauss's musical stories.

Another famous American violinist is to show off too – Joshua Bell will play with Stuttgart Radio Symphony Orchestra and Neue Vocalsolisten Stuttgart on October 27 at Beijing Concert Hall. Led by conductor Sir Roger Norrington, they will perform Chen Qigang's *Creation*, Felix Mendelssohn's *Violin Concerto in E minor, Op.64* and Edward Elgar's *Symphony No.1 in A-flat major, Op.55*.

Beijing Music Festival Ticket Office: 65072472 / 65072473 / 65930299 (English)

Tickets from 80 to 800 yuan.

Ticket Agent:

www.piaowutong.com, 64068888 / 64069999

Poly Theater:

65065343 / 65065345

Beijing Concert Hall:

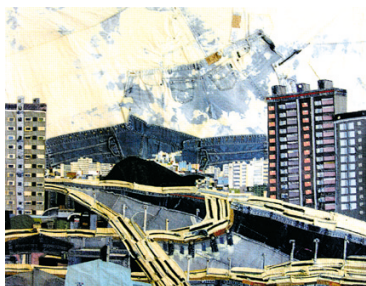
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Forget politics – form is the focus for Korean art stars

By Sabu Zhang

The booming contemporary art scenes in China and South Korea have provided a good chance for exchange and comparison. Beijing Soka Contemporary Space is holding "Art & Issue – China-Korea Art Exchange Exhibition" to highlight the nonpolitical issues reflected in the works of twelve artists from both countries.

The artists, six from China, six from South Korea, are led by Wu Guanzhong and Park Seo-Bo who have had a profound influence on generations of artists since the 1950s, at a time South Korean contemporary art was seen to be influenced by western art through social change and political turbulence. Art developed hand in hand with social transformation and economic growth. From the Art Informel and Expressionist Abstraction movements during the 1950s and 1960s, to minimalism and the monochrome trend



Choi So-Young, *The Landscape of City, Denim*, 2005

in the 1970s, to post-modernism in the 1980s and multi-elements after the 1990s, South Korean artists sought to break through art's political and ethical function to attain individual expression. As today, their works were no longer burdened with oppressive backgrounds but became synchronic, kaleidoscopic, and innovative.

As curator Han Ji-Yun commented in the introduction, "The value of art doesn't lie in ideological values, but in creativity," the adoption of various materials and media marks the neo-

liberalism since the 1990s and expands the dimensions of modern art. Artists from South Korea have endowed contemporary art with new meaning. All their works combine mixed media to spark unique effects. Known as a pioneer of the Informel movement as well as a leader of the Korean Avant-Guard in the 1960s, 74-year-old Park Seo-Bo hasn't stopped trying. He has concentrated on solving the problem of flatness in paintings since he adopted new methods more than 20 years ago. His *Ecriture* series produces a stunning effect on canvas with Korean paper, on which he cuts light and space and rearranges the material into a new texture. Among the later generation artists, Kim You Sun employed the iridescent nature of mother-of-pearl to sketch the structure of *Rainbow* and *Old Sea*; while Lee Yong Deok challenged the limitations of space and expressed his ideas with multiple forms

to deal with rays of light; and Jeong Jin Ryong experimented with glittering tiny beads pasted upon traditional Korean ink and paper to display the magic of the city; Yoon Jong-Seok's *Go Glimmering* and *Lovely* delicately and amusingly deliver a light-hearted sense with acrylic grains. Young artist Choi So-Young's collages skillfully adapt the characteristics of denim to the landscape of the city, wheth-



Kim You Sun, *Rainbow, Mother-of-pearl*, panel, 2005

er the shadows, crossroads or clouds in the sky, the city is vividly presented through the unexpected medium.

In the Chinese section, from the influential Wu Guanzhong and He Duoling to younger artists Ding Yi, Ji Dachun, Zhang Jian and Bob Yan, all combine western technique with Chinese philosophy. Wu Guanzhong's Avant-Garde freehand brushwork and abstract expression were worth the time taken to develop them from the perspective of pure aesthetics; Chengdu artist He Duoling's emotion and melancholy are conspicuous in his obscure infant portraits; Ding Yi's *Appearance of Cross* has again proven his words, "Technique is not appearance." As his only pictorial series since 1988, his simplicity and exploration of elementary patterns on Scottish tartan has spanned 17 years of experimentation. Zhang Jian's *Houhai* and *Dive* symbolize the vague and dreamy landscape

of the lost serene lake. Though within canvas, yet frameless, the Chinese artists' simple pursuit of painting itself shows their vital creativity and independence is beyond tradition.

The Korean passion for new media and abstract art and the Chinese experiments with brush painting demonstrate that art is beyond being a political tool, and is now a medium for self-expression. However, the artists minds can't be separated from their eastern heritage: in the constant change, they have retained the themes and central thoughts of the past. As Han Ji-Yun said, "It shows artists' reluctance to give in to western art and break off from the eastern art tradition."

Do you know of a good show, exhibition or other cultural event in Beijing? Please let us know at yushanshan724@ynet.com. Please write "Culture" in the subject field.

Bestseller booklists 1st week Oct.

By Jia Ting

US – New York Times Bestsellers

1. *A Breath of Snow and Ashes*, by Diana Gabaldon
2. *Son of A Witch*, by Gregory Maguire



(*Lir makes his way through the dangerous land of Oz; a sequel to "Wicked."*)

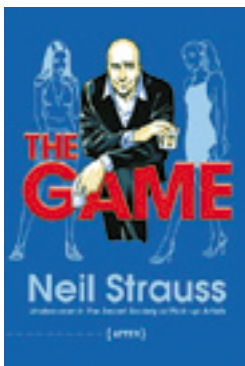
3. *School Days*, by Robert B. Parker
4. *The March*, by E.L. Doctorow
5. *Goodnight Nobody*, by Jennifer Weiner

Amazon.com Bestsellers

1. *The Year of Magical Thinking*, by Joan Didion
2. *A Million Little Pieces* (Oprah's Book Club), by James Frey
3. *The World Is Flat: A Brief History of the Twenty-first Century*, by Thomas L. Friedman
4. *Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything*, by Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner
5. *Knife of Dreams* (*The Wheel of Time, Book 11*), by Robert Jordan

UK – Sunday Times Bestsellers

1. *What If I Had Never Tried It?*, by Valentino Rossi
2. *The Game*, by Neil Strauss



(*The art of seduction learnt from covert pick-up artists.*)

3. *My Spin on Cricket*, by Richie Benaud
4. *Fowler: My Autobiography*, by Robbie Fowler
5. *Life Is Just What You Make It*, by Donny Osmond

France – Fnac.com Bestsellers

1. *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* (French Version), by J.K. Rowling
2. *L'or de Maximilien* (*The Gold of Maximilien*), by Vance and Van Hamme
3. *Le Rire de L'Ogre* (*Laugh of the Ogre*), by Pierre Peju
4. *La Possibilité d'une Ile* (*The Possibility of an Island*), by Michel Houellebecq
5. *Sillage, T8-Nature Humain* (*Human Nature – Comics*), by Buchet and Morvan

**Germany – Amazon.de Bestsellers**

1. *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* (German Version), by J.K. Rowling
2. *Asterix Band 33* (*Comics*), by Albert Uderzo
3. *Ein Hauch von Schnee und Ashe* (*A Breath of Snow and Ashes*), by Diana Gabaldon
4. *Die Vermessung der Welt* (*Measurement of the World*), by Daniel Kehlmann

**China – Joyo.com Bestsellers**

1. *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* (Chinese Version), by J.K. Rowling
2. *A Bowl of Buckwheat Noodle*, by Li Liangping
3. *Decipher Dream of the Red Chamber*, by Liu Xinwu
4. *Eat Your Head Off – 60 Recipes for the Lazy*, by Saba
5. *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*, by Stephen R. Covey

Dark horse wins Booker

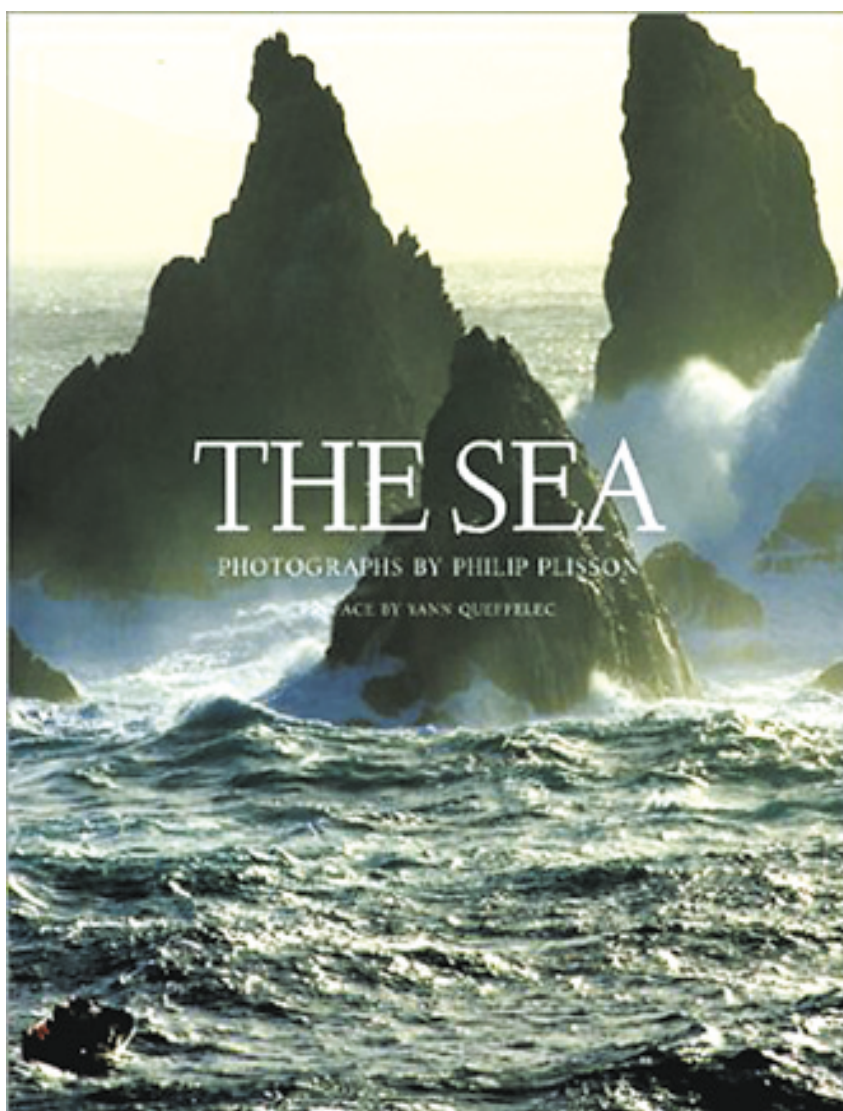
By Wang Chun / Dong Nan

The most eagerly anticipated award in the UK literary calendar reached its climax Monday night. The 2005 Man Booker Prize for Fiction goes to 59-year old John Banville for *The Sea*. He brings home prize money of 50,000 pounds (about \$87,000), worldwide acclaim, and a place on the bestseller list guaranteed in Britain and much of the rest of the world. Shortlisted last week, *The Sea* is touted as the Irish writer's best work, and Martin Amis calls Banville "a master; his prose gives continuous sensual delight". In the story, prompted by a dream, middle-aged art historian Max Morden shuffles back to a seaside town called Ballyless, the scene of his first experience of childhood ardor. He is simmering with fresh grief after the loss of his wife to cancer, too soon, and is inexorably drawn to this vividly remembered place. *The Sea* is thick with atmosphere, allusion, evocative imagery, sensations of rudderless impotence, and almost every paragraph prompts the mind to reverie.

Three high-profile losers for the Booker are Julian Barnes, Kazuo Ishiguro and Zadie Smith. Bookmaker Ladbrokes had installed Barnes as favorite with his novel *Arthur and George*, which tackles religion and faith, the nature of love, bigotry, and England itself.

The Japanese-born Ishiguro was awarded the Booker prize in 1989 for his third, *The Remains of the Day*. His novel, *Never Let Me Go*, which tells a story about cloned children, is a masterclass in restraint.

The half-Jamaican Zadie Smith, whose splendid and bighearted third novel, *On Beauty*, explores everything from race in America, the perils of intellectualism, the culture wars, to growing old, was favored by many critics as a



fresh breath in modern English fiction.

Also on the loser list are Ali Smith and Dublin-born playwright, poet, and novelist Sebastian Barry.

Now in its 37th year, the prize which aims to reward the best novel of the year written by a citizen of the Com-

monwealth or the Republic of Ireland has come to be seen as the ultimate literary showdown, and continues to create its own commanding canon of contemporary fiction.

In high summer, a Booker Bonanza was in prospect. Seventeen books had

Review: the Booker Prize shortlist

soured his beloved Gretta has married another man and most of his original Irish band of brothers have been slaughtered. Those not familiar with British-Irish history may find some of the personal conflicts and politics in the novel confusing, but nevertheless a compellingly sad, if difficult, read.

(*The Independent*, September 10, 2005)

Arthur and George

By Julian Barnes

Jonathan Cape, 352 pages

It is a true story, and a great one: a classic post-Victorian miscarriage of justice with a racist/imperialist undertow. "Arthur" is Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Sherlock Holmes's creator, who was also an ex-ophthalmologist and paid-up spiritualist. "George" is George Edalji, the forgotten "English Dreyfus", victim of a racist miscarriage of justice which shocked Edwardian England. Julian Barnes intertwines the fates of these two men his new novel. *Arthur and George*, inspired by the actual facts of a landmark legal case, is a careful and predictably astute retelling of the story. Barnes fills us in on each of his main characters in turn, beginning with early childhood memories. As the novel progresses, he spends longer and longer in each man's world, delineating their singular predicaments in clear, purposeful prose, bringing the two ever closer to the point of intersection that will alter their lives forever.

(*New Statesman*, Jul 11, 2005)

On Beauty

By Zadie Smith

Hamish Hamilton, 432 pages

In *On Beauty*, Zadie Smith uses the plot of E.M. Forster's odd, radiant 1910 Howard's End – a novel about Edwardian England – about class and the competing claims of idealism and money, about a country on the brink of the social upheavals of World War I as the scaffolding for her own equally strange and sinuous tale of families and generational change, race and multiculturalism in millennial America, love and

identity and the ways they are affected by the passage of time. We follow the Anglo-Caribbean Kipps as they are led to a soulful, transatlantic understanding between the families' matriarchs. Smith's characters, like Forster's, each have a besetting moral obsession that prevents them from becoming truly rounded, and therefore difficult with which to engage. The neat alignment between characters, concerns and foils, threaten Smith's insightful probing of what makes life complicated (and beautiful), but those insights eventually add up.

(*New York Times*, September 13, 2005)

The Accidental

By Ali Smith

Hamish Hamilton, 320 pages

In *The Accidental*, the central characters – Michael Smart, the lecherous lecturer; his partner Eve, and their children Magnus and Astrid, are staying in a rented holiday home in Norfolk. But then there's Amber, who comes into their lives, it seems, by accident and seduces – actually or metaphorically – all of them. She can effortlessly infiltrate the other four characters' lives and fathom their every wish. Add her essential characteristics of rebelliousness and omniscience, and you realize that she is less a flesh-and-blood figure, more of a force field of the imagination. For anyone who loves language, *The Accidental* is a positive feast. Throughout, Smith tries out different types of language (internet pages, TV schedules) and styles (sonnets, soliloquies, interrogations). But the novel isn't that. It's the sheer imagination, shining across the darkness as bright as any projectionist's beam, and leaving all kinds of images unspooling in the readers' minds long after the final page.

(*The Scotsman*, May 21, 2005)

Never Let Me Go

By Kazuo Ishiguro

Faber & Faber, 272 pages

Never Let Me Go is set in the recent past and narrated by a 31-year-old woman who introduces herself simply as Kathy H. In a series of impressionistic flashbacks, Kathy recalls her days growing up at Hailsham, an exclusive school in England. Ultimately, readers learn that the Hailsham children are clones, raised solely for the purpose of medical harvesting of organs, their lifespan circumscribed by years when they are designated as carers, followed by a short period as active donors, culminating in what is obliquely referred to as "completion." The book is a fantasy so mundanely told, so excruciatingly ordinary in transit, its fantastic elements so smothered in the loam of the banal and so deliberately grounded, that the effect is not just of fantasy made credible or life-like, but of the real invading fantasy, bursting into its eccentricity and claiming it as normal.

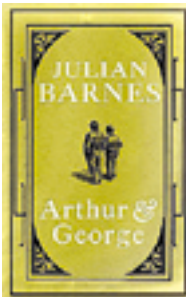
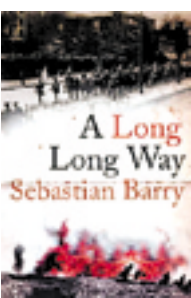
(*The New Republic*, May 16, 2005 p36)

A Long Long Way: A Novel

By Sebastian Barry

Faber & Faber, 304 pages

Unsurpassed in First World War fiction, *A Long Long Way* is a small masterpiece that ought to disturb anyone who supports foolish wars based on lies. It tells the story of Willie Dunne, a builder's apprentice and volunteer for Kitchen's Army, enrolled in the Dublin Fusiliers, and endured four years of brutal trench fighting, Irish Home Rule seems a distant fantasy after the miserable Easter 1916 uprising in Dublin, which Willie, back in Ireland on his first furlough, was forced to help quell, firing on his own people; relations with his pro-British father, who abhors Willie's equivocal stance on Irish nationalism, have



Last days of our life

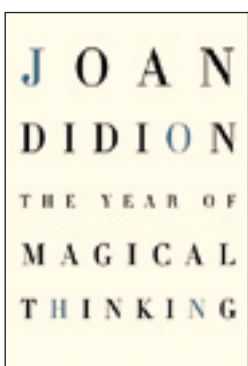
Joan Didion offers scorching personal memoir of a tragic year.

riphery, on what I could see and taste and touch. I knew that I was no legitimate resident in any world of ideas. I knew I couldn't think. All I knew then was what I couldn't do. All I knew was what I wasn't, and it took me some years to discover what I was. Which was a writer."

Didion's new book, *The Year of Magical Thinking* is available now.

Essay Collections: *Slouching toward Bethlehem* (1968), *The White Album* (1979)

Novels: *Run River* (1963), *A Book of Common Prayer* (1977), *Salvador* (1983), *Democracy* (1984), and *The Last Thing*



He Wanted (1996).

Memoir: *Where I Was From* (2003)

From Publishers Weekly Starred Review: Many will greet this taut, clear-eyed memoir of grief as a long-awaited return to Didion's venerated, increasingly rare personal essays. The author of *Slouching Towards Bethlehem* chronicles the year following the death of her

husband, fellow writer John Gregory Dunne, from a massive heart attack on December 30, 2003, while the couple's only daughter, Quintana, lay unconscious in a nearby hospital. Dunne and Didion lived and worked side by

side for nearly 40 years, and Dunne's death propelled Didion into a state she calls "magical thinking." "We might expect that we will be prostrate, inconsolable, crazy with loss," she writes. "We do not expect to be literally crazy, cool customers who believe that their husband is about to return and need his shoes." Didion's mourning follows a traditional arc-she describes how cleaves to the medical descriptions of grief-but her elegant rendition of its stages leads to hard-won insight, particularly into the aftereffects of marriage. "Marriage is not only time: it is also, paradoxically, the denial of time. For forty years I saw myself through John's eyes. I did not age." In a sense, all of Didion's fiction, with its themes of loss and bereavement, served as preparation for the writing of this memoir. An indispensable addition to Didion's body of work and a lyrical, disciplined entry in the annals of mourning literature.

Denmark: Scandinavian cuisine

By Annie Wei
Today's guest: Mr. Henrik H. Sorensen, consul of Administration and Cultural Affairs from the Royal Danish Embassy

The collective label "Scandinavia" reflects the cultural similarity, and the strong historical ties, between Norway, Sweden and Denmark, despite their political independence.

Although Denmark has a small population, Danish cuisine has a strong international impact: the open-face sandwich, Danish pastry, Danish blue (a kind of cheese), and Carlsberg beer.

Smørrøst, an open-face sandwich, is like rice in south China: Danish people eat it everyday. Most sandwiches consist of meat, vegetables, sliced onions, and chopped tomatoes between two pieces of bread. The



Danish breads

open-face sandwich has only one piece of bread. Of course, you can put meat,

fish, vegetables or cheese on the buttered bread. For children, you can put on grapes, banana or chocolate. The traditional way of eating open-face sandwiches is with beer or iced schnaps.

Another popular Danish food we can eat in China is Danmaisu (Danish pastry), which you can buy in many bakeries or Starbucks, and other coffee shops. Fish is also an important Danish dish.

When people mention hotdogs, they think of the US, but Sorensen explained: "Denmark has good hotdogs because of its quality red sausage. Denmark also produces a huge amount of pork and sausage, that's why "hotdog" is very delicious." Sorensen's favorite hometown dish is Flaeskesteg, roasted pork with a crispy skin.

Other typical Danish courses are Frikadeller (pork meat balls), Hakkeboef (burger beef and onions), and Hvid Labskovs (a stew made of square cuts of beef boiled with potatoes, bay leaves and pepper).

Apart from beer, wine plays an important role in Danish dining.

"Denmark does not produce wine," Sorensen said, "Most wine are imported from the main wine producing countries like France, Italy and Spain, as well as South America."

A country with a population of 5 million, there are 1,500 Danish people in China and 300 in Beijing. Restaurants providing Danish food are the Little Mermaid in Sanlitun Bar Street, and SAS hotel.

"To know about Danish food is to eat it!" Sorensen said.

Spicy and soured

By Arron Chang and Hester Xu

You may have heard many times that it's literally impossible to live a normal life in Beijing if you can't deal with spicy food; hence the lasting popularity of Sichuan and other spicy alternatives, such as Yunnan, Hunan and Guizhou.



Outside the Junqinhua

Junqinhua is a very small Guizhou restaurant located in a small, cozy lane behind the China Art Gallery. The interior has a simple design: there are only five or six wooden tables, straw mats and a few wax prints from Guizhou Province cover the walls. The owner, a young man speaking perfect Beijing and Guizhou dialect, will tell you that most of the materials are brought from Guizhou, and that many Guizhou people living in Beijing often come to his place. If you're not particularly against the



Pickled vegetable treated with wine

idea of eating dog meat, try the famous Huajiang Dog Meat, boiled in a hot pot with the mysterious Dog Meat Fragrance flavoring; otherwise find out if Fish in Soured Soup and Trotters in Soured Soup suit you better, stewed in a chili-covered hot pot with tomatoes, cabbage and spring onions, served with a small bowl of seasoning for dipping. For side dish-



Trotters in Soured Soup



The seasoning for dipping

es, there are plenty of choices, including their home-made cold green bean curd, pickled vegetable treated with wine, fried rice with preserved ham and paste made from glutinous rice and sweet potato.

Where: 88 Meishuguan Houjie
Open: 10:30 am - 10:30 pm Tel: 6404 7600 Average cost: 50 yuan and above



Cold green bean curd Photos by Hester Xu



Danish Steak (mashed beef meat) served with potatoes

The Little Mermaid – authentic Scandinavian dining

By Annie Wei

Located on Sanlitun Bar Street, The Little Mermaid is one of the very few Scandinavian restaurants in town. "Most of our customers are from northeastern Europe," said Ms. Deng, the restaurant manager.

Opened in May, the restaurant can now fit 50 customers. "We are going to expand the space pretty soon," Deng said.

Deng is proud about the food in her restaurant. "We have two cooks from Denmark and we are making authentic Scandinavian food."



Outside the Little Mermaid
Photos by Lou Qiyong

The herrings are directly imported from Denmark, and prepared in three ways: soaked in red wine vinegar, white wine vinegar and one in a special Danish garlic source. "When eating this dish," Deng said, "Most Danish people will have some special Danish drinks." These drinks are Dild Snap and Rod Alborg, which cannot be bought from any local wine distributors. Therefore, the Little Mermaid has to import them from Denmark by themselves.

Not only is the food Danish, the whole restaurant's decoration is also in that style – the lamps, the paintings on the wall and cute little red table cloths.

The opening of the restaurant is told as a story, written on the menu: A Danish Viking was traveling for business around the world. One trip took him to Beijing. This Viking was so busy doing business that he didn't realize what a wonderful country he had ended up in. But late one evening, he saw a beautiful Chinese girl and they started discussing values, limitations and possibilities in



Herring

life. After some months the Viking and the Chinese girl started a close relationship. The Viking was enjoying his time in this new and exciting country, but he missed the food from his own part of the world. An idea was born, and they opened a Scandinavian restaurant in Beijing.

Carben is the owner, and also the Viking of the menu story. His other restaurant, the French bistro Blue Marine, has been open for seven years, also well-known to expats.

A dish recommended by the restaurant is Danish Steak (mashed beef

meat) served with fried onions: 75 yuan. The beef is mashed with onions and other ingredients, and served with potato (potatoes are an important part of Danish dining, especially small and fresh ones). The restaurant provides with six choices of garnish for all the main courses: French fries, boiled potato, fried potatoes, pasta, mashed potato and boiled rice.

Where: East of the No. 10 building, Sanlitun Bar Street
Tel: 6417 8108
Opening Hours: 11:30 am–11:30 pm
Average cost: 100 yuan per person



A little piece of Denmark

Veronica's Recipes

By Veronica Smith

If you love roses then you should love apples, as Robert Frost reveals in this poem:

The rose is a rose,
And was always a rose.
But the theory now goes
That the apple's now a rose.
And its true: the apple is a member of the rose family!

The apple has inspired many famous artist and writers, and even scientists like Isaac Newton, who was hit on the head by an apple. But what is most important is what the apple has inspired. This is nowhere better expressed than

by this quote by Irish playwright George Bernard Shaw:

"If you have an apple and I have an apple and we exchange these apples then you and I will still each have one apple. But if you have an idea and I have an idea and we exchange these ideas, then each of us will have two ideas."

Now here is an idea – follow this delicious dessert recipe for apple crisp:

Ingredients: 6-8 apples, juice from 1/2 lemon, 3/4 cup sugar, 3/4 cup of flour, 1 teaspoon cinnamon, 1/2 cup of butter, 1/2 cup of chopped

Apple Crisp

nuts (almonds or walnuts).

Directions: Peel and slice the apples, sprinkle with lemon juice and half of the sugar. In a separate bowl place the remaining sugar, the flour, cinnamon, nuts and chunks of cold butter then and using your fingers roll the ingredients until they have a granular texture. Grease a baking dish and place apples on the bottom and the flour mixture on top, place in an oven at 175 °C for 45 minutes or until done. Apple crisp is often served with vanilla ice-cream or whipped cream.

苹果馅饼
原料: 6-8个苹果, 1/2个柠檬的柠檬汁, 3/4杯白糖, 3/4杯面粉, 1茶匙肉桂, 1/2杯黄油, 1/2杯切碎的坚果(杏仁或核桃)。

做法: 将苹果削皮并切成片, 撒上柠檬汁和一半的白糖。在另一个碗中放入其余的白糖, 面粉, 肉桂, 坚果和黄油块儿, 然后用手指搅拌这些混合成分至其成颗粒状。在烘烤盘中涂上油, 将苹果放在盘子底部, 面粉混合物放在上面, 放入烤炉中在175 °C烤45分钟或至烤好。通常与香草冰淇淋或泡沫奶油一起食用。

(Translated by William King)

Next week find out how the hamburger came to be!



Photo by Liu Xiaojun

Book hunter

If you are searching for original edition books check out the following three locations.

Book Street (Shu Pu Hu Tong)

Books in English, Japanese, French and German, the majority of which are literature and history books. For sale only.

Where: 4-7 apartment, Peking University, Qinghua Nanlu, Haidian **When:** daytime hours. **Cost:** 5-1,000 yuan. **Tel:** 6276 8998 **Website:** www.bookstreet.com.cn **Pass by Bar (Guo Ke)**

The majority of books are English literature. On loan only. Membership need.

Where: 108 Nanluoguxiang, Gulou Dongdajie, Xicheng **When:** 10:30 am-2 am **Cost:** Free **Tel:** 8403 8004 **Website:** www.gk01.com **O2 Sun Bookstore - Reading Bar**

Most books are in English, dealing with literature and the economy. Books can be bought or read in the bar.

Where: 1 Huaqingjiayuan, Wudaokou, Haidian **When:** 9 am-midnight **Cost:** 10-100 yuan per book **Tel:** 8286 3033 **Website:** www.o2sun.com

Personal Classifieds

Accommodation

A two bedroom, well-decorated apartment is for rent in Dongzhimenwai Dajie, near the Australian Embassy and Pizza Hut. Home appliances, furnishing and broadband Internet access available. 2,500 yuan per month. **Contact:** sullivan@sina.com, 13321154253 (Mandarin speaking)

Personal Help

I am an interpreter who can help you grasp Chinese language and other favors. **Tel:** Dingman, 8697 9782

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Group exhibition

35 excellent pieces will be on show, including the vigorous *West High Mountains-Huashan Mountain* by Song Di; the heavy colorful *Flowers in Banna* by Zhang Bu; dripping wet *Rain in the South of the Changjiang River* by Xu Xi. These works are on display with the works of other talented painters who use original painting techniques. From paintings for home decoration, to those suitable for investments, a wide range of work will be on display.

Where: Wan Fung Gallery, 136 Nanchizidajie, Dongcheng **When:** 9 am-6 pm, Until October 30 **Admission:** Free **Tel:** 6523 3320

Exhibitions

Passion and Force

Artists including Feng Feng, Qing Qing and Wang Lifeng. In today's fast-changing China, foreign ideology has a strong impact on many Chinese people. But some Chinese still passionately stick to their traditional Chinese beliefs.

Where: Yan Arts Center, 4 Jiuxianqiaolu, Dashanzi Art District, Chaoyang **When:** Until October 17 **Tel:** 8457 3506



Ma Liuming solo exhibition

Ma Liuming, instead of just living in the body of a male, floats among those babies' bodies featuring his face. It seems that all these trunks do not really exist in real life but in the closed space that only can be built up by the pure backdrop of the painting. The clear and insightful expression of the main theme - alienation - 'the comprehensive enlightenment of both the harmony and contradiction generated from human nature and social environment' is discernible.

Where: Beijing Art Now Gallery, opposite Gate 12, Beijing Workers' Stadium, Chaoyang **When:** Until October 30 **Tel:** 6551 1632



On this weekend

SPORTS

2005 ANA Beijing International Marathon

Over two thousand people will come from all over the world to join this annual marathon. The marathon starts at Tian An Men Square and finishes at Beijing Olympic Center. There will be first aid volunteers located every one hundred meters. The organization also offers free insurance for every participant.

Where: From Tian An Men Square to Beijing Olympic Center **When:** 8 am-12:30 am, October 16 **Audience cost:** Free **Tel:** 8718 3443



Performances

Burn the Floor - World class dancing

The show *Burn the Floor* moves with such exuberant vitality, technical virtuosity and infectious rhythm that audiences find it hard to sit still. In just four years since their first performance in Australia, *Burn the Floor* has become the coolest, the hottest, the sexiest, and the most entertaining theatrical dance sensation on the world stage.

Where: Great Hall of the People **When:** 7:30 pm, October 14-16 **Admission:** 120-1,280 **Tickets tel:** 6417 7845



Movies



View from the Top

Directed by Bruno Barreto, starring Gwyneth Paltrow, Christina Applegate and Candice Bergen. This is the story of a young woman from meager beginnings who sees becoming a flight attendant as her chance to see the world. After catching a glimpse of a former flight attendant who has made it to the good life, Donna decides to sign on with a local airline, and begin a life for herself.

Where: UME International Cineplex, (Huaxing Guoji Yingcheng), 44 Kexueyuan Nanlu, Shuangyushu, Haidian **When:** From October 13 **Tickets tel:** 6417 7845



Shanghai Dreams (Qing Hong)

Directed by Wang Xiaoshuai, starring Gao Yuanyuan and Li Bin. The film's main character is a 19-year-old girl who lives in Guizhou Province. This is where she has grown up, where her friends are, and where she first experiences love; but her father believes that their future lies back in Shanghai. How can they all keep on living together when they don't share the same dreams? Chinese film with English subtitles.

Where: Cherry Lane Movies, An Jia Lou inside the Kent Center, Chaoyang **When:** 8 pm, October 14-15 **Admission:** 50 yuan **Tel:** 6466 2288



Three Steps Over Heaven

Director by Luca Lucini, starring Riccardo Scamarcio, Katy Louise Saunders and Mauro Meconi. The movie is about the world of teenagers in Rome, and the juxtaposition of two worlds: Baby's: a good student, a perfect daughter, a virgin dreaming of a Prince Charming; and Step's: a violent boy who leads a wild life and likes earning money at clandestine motorcycle races. Despite all their differences, the two end up falling in love. Italian with English subtitles.

Where: Italian Embassy, 2 Dong'erjie, Sanlitun, Chaoyang **When:** 7 pm, October 20 **Admission:** Free **Tel:** 6532 2187 **With or Without Sonia**

Directed by Carlos Sama. Orlando is the greatest B movie dubbing director; he lives with Sonia, a new-age woman, and cannot make out the complicated language of a young couple. Sonia's love stifles him. Telepathic coincidences, the casual meeting of people who already knew each other, and the appearance of a



serial killer, are mixed up in a fictional story that is as complex as life itself. Spanish with English subtitles.

Where: Mexican Embassy, 5 Sanlitun Dongjie, Chaoyang **When:** 7:30 pm, October 19 **Admission:** Free **Tel:** 6532 2244

Activities

BJ Hikers - A pilgrim trail

The hike follows one of the pilgrim trails that lead to the holy mountain: Miaofengshan. An invigorating two-hour hike up the steps leads to the pass, with the opportunity for hikers to call into the pilgrim teahouses. The red walls of Miaofengshan temple are visible from the peaks. The hike finishes at Rose Park close to the pilgrim's destination.

Where: Changping County, north of Beijing **When:** October 16, leaving at 8 am from the Lido Hotel outside of Starbucks. **Cost:** 200 Yuan for adults, 150 for children under 12 **Tel:** 13910025516 (Reservations essential)

Music



The Colorful Zone - Twins Beijing concert

Twins will give a concert in Beijing after their successful gigs in Shanghai and Guangzhou. Northern fans will experience an energetic and fashionable show. Twins will perform their new song *The Flying Bird* for their Beijing fans. At the same time, they will give a wonderful performance of *Prince and Princess* with Boyz. Chinese language.

Where: Workers' Gymnasium, Gongti Beilu, Chaoyang **When:** 7:15 pm, October 21 **Admission:** 100-1,280 yuan **Tickets tel:** 6417 7845

We are glad to receive your feedback. We will print employment, language-exchange and accommodation information for individuals. Feel free to email us at bjtodayinfo@ynet.com or call 6590 2626

By Lu Xiaonan

New in Beijing? Want to know where the best entertainment places are, where to dine, where to shop?

Please let us know and we'll figure it out for you.

Send us an email at yushanshan724@ynet.com.

Please write "Info" in the subject field.

By Jackie Zhang

More world-famous luxury brands have entered China of late, hoping to inject their know-how into the Chinese fashion industry. CEOs of many luxury manufacturers visited China recently too, names like Audi, Giorgio Armani, Cartier and more.

This May, the first top fashion industry summit conference, hosted by fashionistas at the *Financial Times*, was held in Shanghai. This June, a world-class luxury products exhibition was held there too.

Potential of the Chinese fashion industry

The distribution markets for these brands are booming in China. Glasses for 300,000 yuan, and Bentley cars for 11.8 million are selling well.

A Goldman Sachs China report indicates the Chinese consumer group of luxury products is the third largest in the world with 12 percent of the world's total sale. Japan and the United States take first and second place.

China's portion will be 20 percent by

'Muse seeks artist': fashion industry needs talent

2008 and equal to Japan by 2015.

Two kinds of people wanted

Able people in the fashion industry are becoming vital for these brands to develop in China.

"Establishing a reputation in China is the first goal of the luxury brands," said Sun Yimin, from the EU-China brand establishment and fashion industry management program. "Opening stores is important. However, holding and sponsoring different kinds of fashion activities and publicizing their brands are more important now. Management talents in retail and marketing are wanted by the

luxury products and fashion industry."

Sun said that it was a complicated process for a luxury brand to start a new store.

"They never recruit people publicly. Therefore, the personnel needs cannot be predicted. Simply speaking, positions such as logistics, finance and HR are needed in the fashion industry. But compared with management and sales, the demand for these positions is not obvious."

New program for cultivating fashion people

The EU-China brand establishment and fashion industry management program was launched by three management

colleges from China, Italy and France this summer.

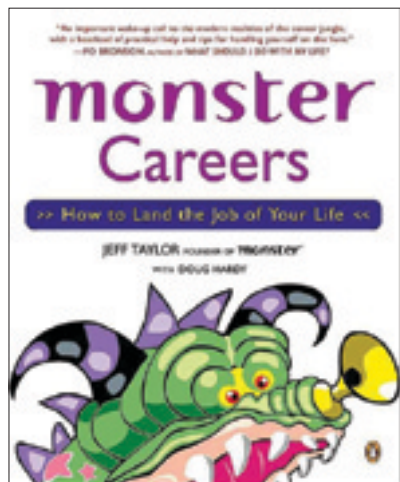
This program is supported by Asia Link, the EU foundation, and carried out by the School of Management, Fudan University, Bocconi University in Milan, and ESSEC Business School in Paris.

It is the first international cooperation program in China that focuses on management research in the fashion industry.

This program aims to cultivate more professionals in fashion, develop the domestic market and regard the luxury products and fashion industries as a special research area in China.

Find me a job, you monster!

— An introduction to the book "Monster Career-how to land the jobs of your life"



A 'monster' that relieves anxiety.

Photo by Monster.com

By Xie Xiaolin

According to statistics from ChinaHR, 150,000 CVs are sent to employers everyday and they hold 3 million resumes with an increase of 30,000 per week. So how are you supposed to get a job? Jeff Taylor, founder of Monster.com, the largest job network worldwide, explains in his new book "Monster Career-How to Land the Job of Your Life". In it, Jeff tells the smart way to find a nice job - through online HR services.

According to a survey on monster.com, people spend less time in same position than the last generation. Shifting working environments and cut backs all affect career development. In 1990, the process of recruitment used to take 12 weeks, now just 4, thanks to the network, email and database technology.

As a visionary leader in both the Internet and careers industries as well as a frequent speaker at universities and high-level business conferences, Taylor is a busy man. Quite simply, explains Taylor, "this book is about finding and landing your dream job." It's not just for the unemployed-there are practical tips for recent grads, people looking for something better and anyone who might be affected by the current climate of job insecurity.

"An important wake-up call to the modern realities of a career jungle, with a boatload of practical help and tips for handling yourself on the hunt," said Po Bronson, author of *What Should I Do with My life?*

The book tells that each employer can receive 50 CVs on average, and suggests keeping some personal information, like bank details, private and asking for help from headhunters if necessary.

In the face of such fierce competition, Taylor guides readers through the new basics of searching for a job, including developing what he calls a F.A.M.E. attitude: Think like a Free agent; train like an Athlete; prepare like a Marketer; and work like an Entrepreneur. He also offers sound advice in the realms of networking, telling a good story about one's professional achievements, creating a "resume that sells" and much more. Worksheets, templates and schedules within the chapters are straightforward and user-friendly, and many of them are available online at Monster.com, as indicated by the "book-to-web" designations throughout the volume.



John's hobby is shooting films of Beijing natives.

Photo by Magic Parsons

From riches to rags — the John Napiorkowski story

By Magic Parsons

Attracted by the "China Miracle", many young people are coming to this old but wonderful land to see what's happening and seek opportunities. John Napiorkowski, a 36 year-old citizen of New York City, tells us his story.

Q: What brings you to Beijing?

A: Visiting Beijing in the mid 1990s left such a profound impression on me that I knew I would have to live there.

My initial journey to China was in the summer of 1996. I had just finished graduate school at New York University.

I can still remember how I felt the first time I stood on Chinese soil. It was as though the deep years of Chinese history and culture seemed to well up from the earth into my body.

I was drawn back to Beijing on several occasions over the following years and in January of 2004, I took the plunge, quitting my 100K corporate job in New York to move to Beijing and start over.

Q: Many foreigners come to Beijing for economic reasons. What are your goals?

A: My economic career is as an Internet Technology Professional, but the

career of my soul is that of an artist of everything living and as a philosopher of the now.

I first came to Beijing to experience her people and to share my thoughts and skills with a culture different from the one I was born into. I wanted to give myself a personal sabbatical. Now that I am trying to build an existence in China, my goal is to start a company to help other newbie foreigners adjust to life in Beijing.

Q: Tell me about some of your activities in Beijing.

A: Over the past two years I've produced three independent movies and been involved in several other artistic projects. I've also worked as a freelance videographer. I make enough to get by, and have time to think.

Q: What are you doing in Beijing right now?

A: My current project is running a company called "Beijing Solution" (<http://www.beijingsolution.com/>). We are a lifestyle services company whose mission is to help foreigners live in Beijing. We are very excited to now be offering assistance with getting a Chinese Visa!

See <http://visas.beijingsolution.com> if you want more information about our Visa service. There have been many changes with foreigners' visas.

Q: Do you want to help others go from riches to rags and be happy about it?

A: BU(No)! Actually I am hoping they will learn from my mistakes. I wish I had a company or mentor to help me learn the ropes.

Q: Where can we find you in Beijing?

A: Working out at the Nirvana gym, playing in Tuanjiehu public park, or running a Performance Art group in 798.

Q: Tell us one or two of your favorite job offers in Beijing?

A: I got hired for one night to be an actor on a TV commercial. I'm still not sure what product I was supposed to be selling. It took 12 hours to shoot 2 minutes of screen time.

Q: What is your favorite Chinese word or phrase?

A: Deleba!(Get out of town!) I like it because you can use it as a comeback to anything.

Carnegie helps ease working pressure

By Xie Xiaolin

The list of stress producers in today's world grows by the minute. People react differently to living in this pressure cooker. But working pressures like depression, fear and conflict may be settled after a series of professional courses this October.

CPA Australia Beijing Representative Office invited Chai Guobing, senior lecturer of Dale Carnegie Training Beijing Office, to give some guidance and suggestions in a Carnegie way this week: list your top five worries with reasons for each one, write them down and prepare for the worst results. Now calm down and list solutions, and ACTION. Participants can share their experiences in discussion and solve problems together.

Everyone who feels that stress is interfering with their ability to reach their full career potential needs to attend the activities so as to learn how to use a proven method to eliminate 50 percent of business worries, cultivate a positive mental attitude, block out stress and stay focused using 'day-tight compartments'. Understand the difference between positive and negative stress, and break the worry habit before it breaks you.

One million graduates hunt jobs

By Xie Xiaolin

Of 3.3 million of graduates this summer, statistics show only 70 percent have found jobs, which means the rest, nearly 1 million are still looking, according to Sina.com.

This figure does not include former graduates who have not gained stable

jobs yet. One reason for this problem may be the hike in academic education recruitment in recent years. Many students lack job seeking skills. Others have to deal with tough personal relations and feel depressed or frustrated, leading to resignations or frequent job changes.

This year, the admission rate of Chinese universities was up more than 50 percent, and more than 4.7 million newcomers have entered universities, a record figure. Some seniors have to take entrance exams for postgraduate study to avoid competition and delay seeking jobs. The coming years will not find them easily satisfied.

nese universities was up more than 50 percent, and more than 4.7 million newcomers have entered universities, a record figure. Some seniors have to take entrance exams for postgraduate study to avoid competition and delay seeking jobs. The coming years will not find them easily satisfied.

Seeking Jobs

A native Chinese university student, with one year experience as a Chinese tutor to foreigners is seeking a job as a language teacher. layla8311@yahoo.com.cn

Female, 44, looking for a job as an accountant, cashier, or warehouse manager. 13552517749, 6732 7217

Wayne Tian is looking for a job related to mechanics and electronics. He has good English speaking and listening skills. 13811508491, 65245508

Need Help with a Halloween or birthday party? Mr. Magic is an American bilingual Birthday Clown/Magician with ten years experience in China. Shows include: magic show, balloon, face painting, prizes, treasure hunts, interactive game and much more! Special deals for charities, hospitals and schools. Contact Mr. Magic at: parsons59@yahoo.com

Ivan Young, a new graduate from Beijing International Study University, is looking for a job as a business interpreter, management assistant, public relations officer, HR officer, or office secretary. ivan1339@sina.com, 13811243074

Jenny Li, a graduate from the University of International Business and Economics, is looking for a job as an interpreter or an international trade salesperson. 13611163663, jennyli63663@2911.net

Female, Beijinger, 29, certificated public accountant, fluent in both written and spoken English, is looking for a full-time job related to finance, or a part-time job related to English. lily948@hotmail.com 83477009.

Vacancies

Three vacancies for full-time English teachers at a school in Qingdao, Shandong province. We pay for your accommodation and flights with a 4000 yuan salary every month: lijiaxuanxuan@sohu.com, 62552834, 13381392538

Shanghai Whyte Asia Pioneer Pharma is looking for instrumentation and automation engineers, chemical engineers, R&D managers, chemists, microbiologists, chemical analysts, process development chemists, chemical products sourcing executives, and web masters. Contact: Zhou at: 021-6120 3156

The Southern Industrial Zone, Bincheng District, Binzhou, Shandong Province, is looking for two reps and five consultants in Beijing. Contact: Mr. Chen at 13561569235

(Send positions offered and wanted info to: ayi@ynet.com. Beijing Today does not take any responsibility for the accuracy or authenticity of the information published.)

A Beijing-based English newspaper is looking for reporters, freelancers and editors. Chinese applicants should have university degrees in English or related majors and media experience. Foreigners from the UK and US with relevant media experience preferred. Please send your resumes and writing samples to: hr@ynet.com



Nordic Tour – Finland (5)



Finnish art academies' comprehensive education



The main building of the Theater Academy of Finland

Photos by the Theater Academy of Finland

Although Finland is a small country, located in the northern part of Europe, its artistic design, architecture and art education is of the highest quality in the world.

The University of Art and Design, Academy of Fine Arts, Sibelius Academy, and Theater Academy of Finland are the four art academies in Finland.

The representatives from these four academies took part in our special series chat on Finnish education.

University of Art and Design

Guest: *Hanna Karkku, international affairs coordinator*
The largest university of design and audiovisual communication in Scandinavia

The University of Art and Design Helsinki is an international university dedicated to design, audiovisual communication, art education and art. It has a strong and active international presence. The university, founded in 1871, is a pioneer in research and education.

Academic strength

There are two design universities in Finland (the other is University of Lapland) and UIAH is the older one. It has a strong tradition in design education (since 1873) - most of the world famous Finnish designers have graduated from UIAH.

The university's strongest areas at present are new media, product and strategic design, environmental art and furniture design - some of these are more research oriented, some more artistic.

Teaching staff

UIAH recruits the best Finnish (and even some international)

al) design professionals as their teachers. The university relies quite a lot on part-time teachers who otherwise have their own design or art practices—that way UIAH hopes that it gets people who know what's going on in design, how designers co-operate with industry, business and society in general. They can also be role models for the students. The university's professors have been chosen either on their scientific and artistic merits to ensure balanced development of students' skills and to find ways to develop design further.

Programs for international students

All the MA programs at UIAH are open to international students, but the most popular ones are product and strategic design, new media and environmental art. They are all 80-90% taught in English, so they are the easiest in that sense.

Also other programs, such as design education based on projects, teamwork and individual work, are also taught in English.

The Chinese students at UIAH have been most interested in product, graphic and furniture design.

Doctoral studies can also be carried out in English, and the university currently has a couple of Chinese doctoral students.

All the university's BA courses are taught in Finnish, so if you would like to do a BA here it would mean learning Finnish.

Academy of Fine Arts

Guest: *Riitta Salmi, international coordinator*
The only fine art academy in Finland

Academy of Fine Arts provides the highest university-level theo-

*Ann-Christin H.S. of the Theater Academy of Finland*

retical and practical training in fine arts in Finland. It seeks to promote research in fine arts and to act as a member of the international community of academic education in arts. Its purpose is to provide broad professional artistic training while taking into account new developments in contemporary art.

As the academy is the only Fine Art University in Finland, the most popular department has always been Painting. Time and space based art comes next (video, performance, moving image, photography...)

Personal study plan

Students, together with the responsible professor, come up with a study plan for one year or for the whole study period.

As there are many obligatory courses and many open courses for everybody, the personal study plan is a flexible working schedule. The students don't all have to take the same courses and they have a big selection - but all must have a certain amount of credit points before they can get their degree.

Artistic talent needed for application
A requirement for both bach-

elor and master degrees of Fine Art degree is artistic talent which must be shown by sending original works and by participating in the admission course. There are also requirements for basic school education (baccalaureate diploma or equivalent studies etc.) However, the academy can make exceptions concerning formal basic school education, as artistic talent is the most important factor. For the Master of Fine Arts degree, the applicant must already have a bachelor degree in Fine Arts from Finland, or from some foreign university or polytechnic.

Sibelius Academy

Interviewee: *Leena Veijon-suo, international exchange coordinator*

The only music university in Finland

The Sibelius Academy is the only music university in Finland and one of the biggest in Europe. In addition to providing the highest education in the field of music, it engages in performance and creative art and research and is committed to the fostering of Finland's musical and cultural heritage. It also seeks active collaboration with Finnish society.

Comprehensive academic strength

In addition to the high quality and excellent professors, one of the strengths of the Sibelius Academy is versatility: the range of courses is comprehensive.

Ten degree programs include: arts management, music performance, jazz music, folk music, church music, vocal music, music education, music technology, orchestral and cho-

ral conducting and composition and music theory.

Students Union

The Sibelius Academy Students Union promotes fellowship between students and fosters their social, intellectual and artistic activities. The Student Union provides services and assistance; it is also involved in entertainment, organizing parties, trips and other functions.

Theater Academy of Finland

Guest: *Ann-Christin Hellberg-Sagfors, international planning officer*

Provide quality education in theater and dance

Founded in 1979, the Academy provides the highest education in theater and dance in Finland, training actors (in Finnish and Swedish), music theatre professionals, directors, dramaturges, lighting and sound designers, dance artists (choreographers and dancers), dance and theater pedagogues. The Theater Academy is a university of performing arts that serves as an arts and research center for theatre and dance.

Combining practice and academia in teaching

The Theater Academy educates artists and is therefore a combination of practical skills, analysis, artistic awareness and research. The studies in theater and dance consist of artistic assignments, workshops, exercises, seminars, lectures and special courses. Students are guided by professionals in their fields.

The education brings the unique artistic quality of each student in addition to providing theoretical and practical skills.

(Edited by Jackie Zhang)

Ask Ayi:

Q: After graduating as a major in economics, I have worked in a multinational firm for over 3 years. Now I'm planning to do an MBA. Can you tell more about Portland State University?

— Citizen Kane

A: The School of Business of Portland State University (PSU), offers MBA+ study from two to three years in three directions: "Management of Innovation and Technology" emphasizes strategic thinking and management in the product innovation process; "Finance" focuses on finance, but with a heavy dose of organizational understanding; "International Business" has a general approach that focuses mainly on Asia and Europe. It also provides a one year "Master of International Management (MIM)" and "Master of Accounting and Finance (MSFA)".

Admission to these programs is competitive, based on a prospective student's ability to meet a range of application criteria. Applications are accepted year round for Fall Admission, with the majority of spots filled between April 1 and June 1. The deadline for full-time MBA applications is March 1 for international students. Complete applications for the part-time MBAs are accepted until August 15.

You have enough work experience, but strong GPA or GMAT scores will count for a lot.

The admission package includes the application (you can download it from www.pdx.edu/admissions/grad_apply.html), one set of official transcripts in the sealed envelope, \$50 application fee, and a current TOFEL score report.

Living expenses every year are estimated at about \$16,000 and the School of Business also offers scholarships, financial aid, graduate assistance and internships.

(Edited by Xie Xiaolin)

23 countries accept China's self-study graduates

By Xie Xiaolin

Twenty-three countries have approved the self-study credentials of Chinese students, including mutual approval of both certificates and credit scores.

In China, aside from the formal universities and colleges, many other types of higher education are available, including TV, evening, and postal programs.

These students can obtain bachelors certificates as long as they pass the national tests held several times a year. These bachelors are called self-study graduates.

These graduates were not accepted abroad as most of the countries could not understand the structure of China's higher education. This prevented them from continuing their higher education overseas. But things are changing.

Most of the American universities accept Chinese self-study credentials. But most of the students can only apply for undergraduate courses.

Japanese schools require a minimum of 16 years continuous education background, which is difficult for these Chinese students. But they can still find ways to go as long as they demonstrate the required 16 years continuous education received, or hold a bachelor's degree.

French schools accept all the academic certificates issued by China's Ministry of Education. Therefore, nearly all self-study graduates can apply. But French schools require self-supported international students be 28 or younger.

German schools focus on academic certificates only. You can apply as long as you hold a bachelors degree certificate issued by the ministry.

The Commonwealth countries, such as the UK, New Zealand, Australia and Canada, are even more easy-going, and the same is true of Ireland. You can choose various levels of education in these countries, as long as you can pay.

My Study in the UK (5):**The seminar winner**

By Elite Wang

Nearly every Chinese student will feel confusion when doing seminars with classmates from other countries, especially from western countries. Even if you speak fluent English it can sometimes be difficult to identify your classmates' logic during a discussion. It is not only because we seldom do seminars in China, but also because of the different cultural background and theoretical systems in the same research realms. The conflict can last through your period of academia and you may feel isolated if you are not able to change the situation.

Be yourself

Yes, the westerners have their logic, and so do we. The point of the seminar is to develop different ideas with different angles. No matter whether you agree or not with your partners, make sure that you state your own points of view clearly to them. They may accept your logic anyway; if not, the questions they raise will help you to understand each other. The fact is, the more you discuss the better the seminar will be for you.

Be a good listener

Listen to your fellow student's statements carefully. Make notes and repeat to them to see if

you really grasp their points. They may give a more thorough analysis during a second explanation. Don't be afraid to ask questions: the people sitting beside you may be just as confused as you are. If you do worry about the face problem, say something like "I have a question, although it may be a stupid one, why..." That makes you sound sincere and no one will blame you for your curiosity. For those who are not that confident about their English, a moderate starting sentence will help to conquer nervousness.

Be the first speaker

Every seminar has a silent

start. The professor watches full of expectation, and students sit, frowning, smiling or just staring at their notebooks. Finally the professor picks someone and just gets the simplest answer that everybody has in mind. However, the real seminar begins when someone speaks, so why not volunteer? The professor will remember the student who breaks the silence with appreciation. Isn't this easier than composing an impressive essay?

Never waste the seminar

A seminar is not just a part of study routine. It does develop debating skills. There are a

number of research references based on students' seminars. Do some analysis and organize to your seminar notes. Try to quote them in your essay and dissertation. They will be vivid examples and make your work convincing and objective. And the marker will say: "Hey, this is a student who does their job!"

Elite Wang, master student graduated from the University of Edinburgh, Scotland. She is major in Comparative and General Literature, and has stayed in the UK for two years. She can be reached at:

wangxiaoyuan@ynet.com

By Shida Zhu

Mountainous Zhejiang, shrouded in the burned colors of autumn, allows the jaded traveler engaging respite from the usual tourist merry go round.

Anchang nestles in between the Dahe and Tu mountains with the Xixiaojiang River running through its quiet, lyrical streets that seem to have thousands of ancient stories to tell. In an autumn drizzle, the rural scene is beautiful: boats covered with rain-proof coir ropes, the wupeng ply the river, with fishermen in a palm-bark rain capes standing at the helm. Turn and you're back in the 21st century, with the open shopping fronts at the river bank on either side. Different from other Zhejiang river towns where business is brisk with the cries of street hawkers, the town is less commercial, giving visitors a sense of the ancient tranquility of the town.

In ancient times it was called 'Changle' by the Yue, an ancient ethnic group in East China, and was renamed Anchang during the second year of the reign of Emperor Qianning of the Tang Dynasty.

When you walk the streets covered with slabs that have become as smooth as a mirror thanks to years of wear, you will see a great variety of shops that sell merchandise from the locality as well as from all over China and craftsmen's shops where baskets are woven and wooden bathing barrels are made on the

waxing on the beauty of the water town, wrote:

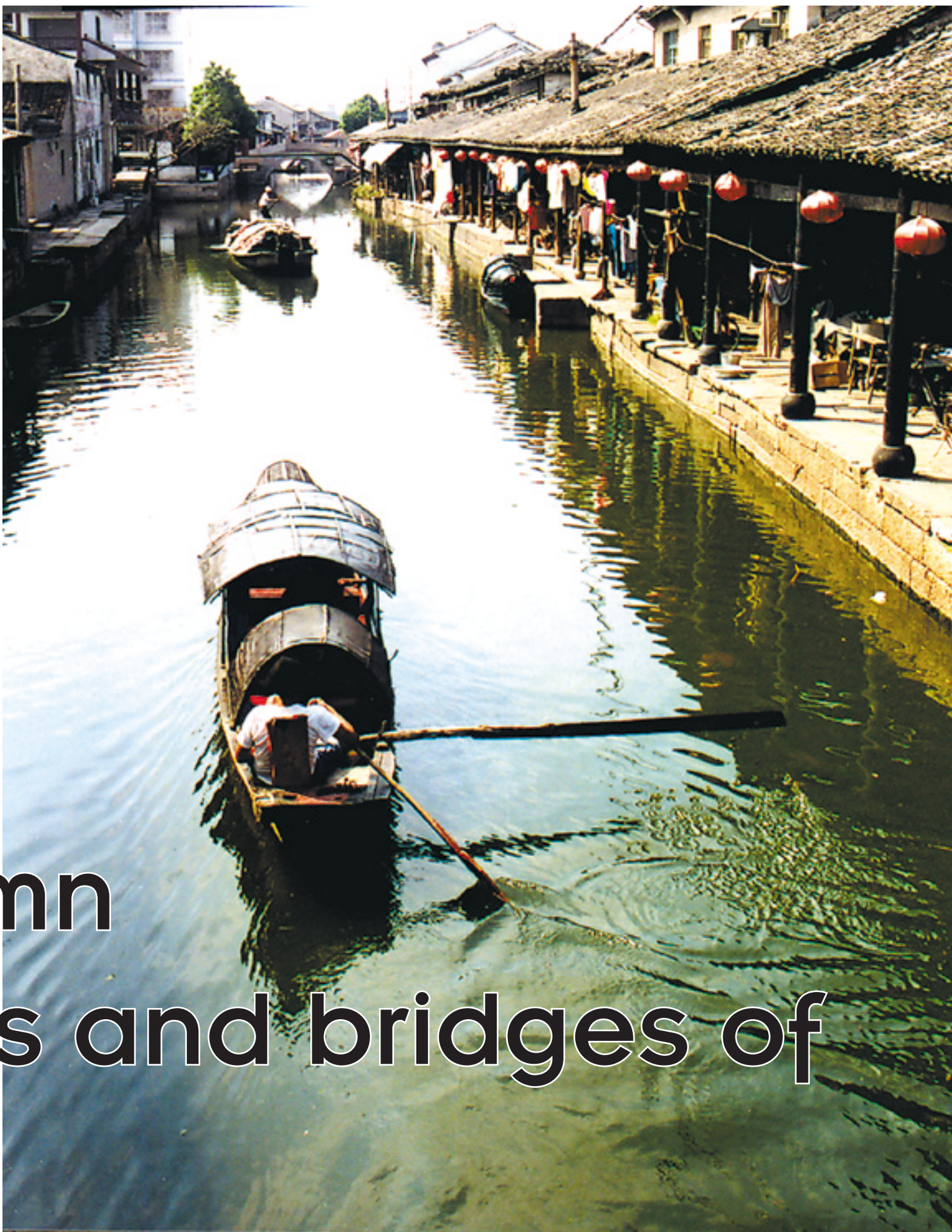
A blue river runs through the street Flanked by tens of thousands of houses;

A rainbow transcends the river That boasts of 17 bridges.

There is an old mansion that used to house the family of Lou Xintian, a government advisor of the Qing Dynasty. The compound is designed in a very simple style with the garden hidden modestly behind towers, symbolizing the life style of one who sits behind the scenes. Anchang, northwest of Shaoxing, is ancient and its charm resounds with the argumentativeness and wisdom appropriate for a town notable for producing government ministers.

Shiye were advisors privately employed by officials at all levels during the Ming and Qing dynasties. They took part in the handling of the routine government work, sometimes even very secret work. Though they had no formal official titles, they exercised tremendous control on the local political, economic and military work. They were highly respected by officials who called them in reverence "lao fu zi", literally 'old master.' Shiye as a special group of people in the environment of feudal China exercised great influence on the humanistic environment of the town.

Late autumn and early winter is most exciting here, with a great assortment of traditional festivities. The atmosphere is one of pleasure and enjoyment in rural China as the year's farm work is at an end and the busy spring



'Easy' is a little boat on the Anchang.

Photos by Cai Lei

The autumn mountains and bridges of Zhejiang

spot. You may still hear the hum of the blacksmith, a scene long lost in other parts of China. You will be able to marvel at the deftness of the Chinese hand. Have you ever seen how women stitch cloth shoes? Do you know how the Chinese spin cotton into yarn in the traditional manner? You will learn, traveler.

The riverside streets are covered with verandas. Even if there is a downpour, you won't get soaked while roaming the town. Such street corridors stretch several miles. From time to time, you will come across *qilou*, the gate towers that transcend the streets. Arched stone bridges link the commercial streets on either side of the river. They themselves bear witness to history and the evolution of the bridge-building art in southern China. When you stand on the bridge on a clear night, if it happens to be a full moon, you will see the moon hanging in the sky, shedding light over the black-tiled rooftops. If someone in the distance plays huqin, a Chinese violin, with a melancholic strain, you could be standing in a postcard from a Chinese rural town. A local poet,



Nature reclaims an ancient bridge.



The ancient drama stage.

sowing season is yet to come. The climax is a performance of theatrical works locally called *shexi* played on the town's ancient theatrical stage, which has a tile-roofed top and makeshift stages. Among the theater-going crowds are those who sit on boats, watching operatic episodes from the decks, as described in Lun Xun's stories. The performance includes *lianhualao*, a folk song form accompanied by rhythmic beating of bamboo boards, and a drum show, with the drums strung at the waist. And there's an old tradition where locals decipher riddles on the strength of one's knowledge of literature and linguistics. To make the festivities all the more colorful, there are no lack of delicacies. The New Year refreshments include rice cakes - glutinous or plain, pyramid-shaped glutinous rice dumplings wrapped in naturally fragrant bamboo or reed leaves and locally made sausages.

Don't miss the chance to see a unique ancient kiln in Wanyao village, Cangnan County, in the mountains upstream of the Jade Dragon Lake in the Yucang Mountains. There are altogether more

than 300 ancient houses built in the early Qing period. The houses were built on the mountain slope, layer upon layer: seen from afar they look like a mountain city. In the middle of the village stands an ancient theatrical stage, a landmark. It is a wooden structure with the beams inserted into each other without a single nail.

The kiln, the most outstanding site in the village, lies on a mountain slope up 13 steps. You start the fire at the lowest step and go escalating upwards one by one with each set for a given temperature. When it comes to the highest step, the chinaware is ready in the kiln. The day when the chinaware is well burned in the kiln and the burned chinaware is moved out of the kiln was a big festival when people slaughtered pigs and sheep for feasting.

In Taishun, in the southern rolling ground of the province, there are six wooden bridges with roofs that are recorded in the annals of world bridge construction. Taishun used to be a refuge for influential or wealthy families who were plagued by war in central China during the dynastic period. It indeed seems

Tips:

Where: Anchang lies in the northwest of Shaoxing. Take a mini-bus at the Shaoxing bus terminal that has a shift bus service every five minutes bound for Anchang from 6:00 to 17:00. If you drive, take the Shanghai-Hangzhou-Ningbo expressway and exit at Anchang. Wanyao Village nestles in the province's southern-most Cangnan county, 10 kilometers west of the county seat. Take a bus from Wenzhou to Cangnan with a drive of one hour and a half for a fare of 25 yuan. Make a transfer at Qiaodun town where you may take a direct bus to Wanyao. If you drive, take the

No. 104 Highway and turn to Wanyao at Qiaodun town.

Tourism telephone: 0577-64755972

Taishun borders with Wencheng in the northeast, Jingning in the northwest and Fujian in the south. There is an express bus service at 8:00 and 9:00 and the regular bus service makes ten trips from Wenzhou to Taishun. The express bus service charges a fare of 55 yuan and the regular 40 yuan. The drive will take about 4 to 5 hours. Santana taxi service will charge about 280 yuan.

Tourism telephone: 0577-67582499



Bridges: a source of fun, and not just for architecture buffs.

to be a place totally separated from the outside world by rows upon rows of mountains. In China, it is called "a paradise away from this world".

Historically, the villages and human settlements were very much scattered in the mountain valleys with each separated by dozens of miles. The ancestors built pavilions - a facility that shields rains and wind - over a given distance of miles for travelers to take a rest. Some of the pavilions evolved into covered bridges. In addition to providing protection to travelers, they also helped protect the wood in the bridge structure from wear by rain and wind.

According to historical records, there were a total of 958 bridges by 1987. Of the figure, 476 were built before 1949. More than 30 of them were constructed during the Ming and Qing dynasties. Some of the bridges sit on wooden arches and others on stone arches, reminding travelers of those remote old days.

If you look from afar at Wenxing Bridge that sits on an arched stone base, it seems like a piece of art with a fluent roofline. One end of the bridge perches on a mountain slope while the other rests on ground. The base is not leveled. If you look at it from the river, it has the shape of an irregular quadri-

lateral and the roofline is not leveled either. People call it "slanted head and shoulders". The bridge floor rises and falls in three sections without an inch of flat land. If you stand at the highest point of the bridge, you will see that the bridge falls fairly sharply onto the western shore while it drops to the eastern bank in two sections that are modestly sloped. The bridge pavilion in the middle is also slanting a bit towards one side.

The Yuewen Bridge was built during the Qing Dynasty. It stands at a mountain pass with a length of 23 meters. The bridge shoulders a three-story pavilion. The archway made of granite is moon-shaped, offering a picture of unique beauty against a backdrop of ancient pine trees and mountain springs.

Santiao Bridge, built during the Song Dynasty, is the oldest. It was rebuilt during the 23rd year of the reign of Emperor Daoguang of Qing. It stands over a stretch of 32 meters over a terrific valley and its archway spans 21 meters. It is the most beautiful wooden bridge structure of all.

Introduce a Chinese place for traveling that suits the season (every first week of the month.) Ideas or suggestions, please write to dongnan@ynet.com or call 6590 2524